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NO. 7345 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1990 MUHARRAM 23, 1409 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS

Amir invited to visit France

French defence minister in Kuwait for arms talks

FRENCH Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Kuwait yesterday for talks on various issues, including the possible sale to Kuwait of Mirage 2000 multi-role fighter planes and other weapons.

Chevenement met HH the Amir shortly after his arrival and delivered a message from French President Francois Mitterrand. The message contained an invitation for the Amir to visit France.

The Amir has accepted the invitation and hopes to visit France next year.

The French defence minister later met HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah before starting a round of talks with his counterpart, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed.

Chevenement also met Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

brought no specific proposals for the sale of French-made jet fighters to Kuwait. But the Kuwaiti defence minister said the talks will centre on the French arms industry, without elaborating.

Kuwait already has less sophisticated Mirage jets. Earlier this year France offered Kuwait its advanced Mirage 2000s.

Chevenement was welcomed at the airport by Sheikh Nawaf, Deputy Chief-of-Staff Maj. Gen. Jaber Khalid Al Sabah and senior Army officers.

In an arrival statement, Chevenement told KUNA that his visit comes in the framework of "friendly and cordial relations" between Kuwait and France.

Affirmed

On the role which France and EEC countries can play to push forward the peace process in the Gulf region, Chevenement said the freedom of navigation in the Gulf must be ensured and the waterway should be cleared of mines.

He said he will today visit the French warships stationed in the Gulf.

He affirmed that France is ready to take part in the rebuilding of the war devastated Gulf countries.

Chevenement's two-day visit came a week after Kuwait signed



HH the Amir received Chevenement yesterday.

an arms deal with the United States to obtain 40 F-18 jet fighters along with Maverick air-to-ground missiles.

It also came while Army Chief-of-Staff Maj. Gen. Mezyed Al Sane was visiting the Soviet Union leading a high-ranking military delegation.

Kuwait is adopting a policy of diversifying its sources of weapons. Last month, it signed an arms contract with the Soviet Union to buy 245 armoured personnel carriers.

Dhaka remains cut off from the world

Bangladesh renews plea for emergency aid

DHAKA, Sept. 3, (UPI): Bangladesh issued a fervent plea for foreign aid today to help cope with its worst floods in memory, saying some 25 million people were homeless and the government will have to feed half the population of 110 million until December.

Officials said there was no respite for most of the 55,590 square-mile (114,000 sq-km) nation from water spilling out of major rivers seething from heavy monsoon rains in the main catchment areas in the Himalayan foothills of northeastern India.

More than 50 people died today, taking the death toll over 500, officials said. The latest victims drowned or were killed by snakes or disease caused by rotten food and contaminated water.

Supplies

In response to earlier pleas, four Indian military helicopters began hauling emergency relief supplies to flood-bound areas. Officials said the United States had sent 10,000 tons of food aid.

In Dhaka, most power supplies were shut down and the capital remained cut off from the rest of Bangladesh and world for

a second day, with the airport closed and rail lines and roads under water.

Officials said water continued to flow from the Buriganga River to the west and Sitalakha River to the east, bringing to about 90 per cent the total area of Dhaka affected by flooding.

"We are virtually floating on water," said Col. Abdul Malik, head of the Dhaka Municipal Corporation.

Officials said about 300,000 people were being sheltered at 162 government-run relief centres, while about one million others were staying with relatives, in mosques and churches or on roadway median strips, traffic islands and open swaths of high ground.

In a northern suburb, about 24,000 people sought shelter in the three-storey Sher-e-Bangla (Continued on Page 2)



Flood victims in Dhaka waded through waist-deep water on their way to relief camps. (Reuters wirephoto)

INSIDE

Arab Times Today
A six-page supplement on Denmark

International	23
Kuwait-Gulf	4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Business and currencies	7, 8
Features	15
Classifieds	16
Urdu	17, 18
Sports	19, 20

- بگڈیش میں سلاب کی جاو
- کاربان
- پاکستان میں فضائی حادثے کی تحقیقات
- پنجاب میں سکھ اشتہا پندوں کے خلاف مہم
- برا میں طوائف الملوکی جیس صورت حال
- بھارتی اپوزیشن رہنما پر قتل کا الزام
- فرانسیسی وزیر دفاع کا دورہ
- کیت
- مراسلات اور برقیات

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with slight to moderate north-easterly to easterly wind.

State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 7.30 pm

Low water: 12 noon and 11.30 pm

Sunrise: 5.26 am

Sunset: 6.07 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 35°C (95°F) Bahrain: 38°C (100°F) Ahmedi: 39°C (102°F) Fathaka: 42°C (108°F)

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 24°C (75°F) Bahrain: 31°C (88°F) Ahmedi: 28°C (82°F) Fathaka: 24°C (75°F)

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 44°C (111°F) Ahmedi: 42°C (108°F) Fathaka: 41°C (106°F)

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 55 per cent Bahrain: 55 per cent Ahmedi: 55 per cent Fathaka: 55 per cent

Iraq denies using chemical weapons

BAGHDAD, Sept. 3, (Reuters): Iraq denied yesterday that its forces had used chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels in the northern areas of the country.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted an official information source as "strongly denying the use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq."

A spokesman for the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), calling from Europe, said yesterday that Iraq had made chemical attacks on the rebels on Wednesday and Thursday in the region of Amadiyah near the Turkish border.

In London, the human rights group Amnesty International said it had received reports that Iraqi troops killed hundreds of Kurdish citizens in attacks on their villages in north Iraq during August, using tanks, helicopter gunships, artillery and chemical weapons.

Offensive

Iraqi forces launched an offensive to quell Kurdish resistance after Iran accepted the UN-sponsored ceasefire in the Gulf war, which took effect on Aug. 20.

INA quoted the official source as saying "the traitors (Kurdish rebels) who co-operated with the Iranian invaders have completely collapsed together with Iran's military collapse."

They had fled towards the borders with Iran and Turkey after the ceasefire was announced, he said.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said yesterday that 60,000 Iraqi Kurds had crossed into Turkey and would be given shelter.

A source close to Ozal quoted him as saying Turkey would give KDP leader Masoud Barzani temporary sanctuary for humanitarian reasons on condition he then agreed to go on to another country.

The United States said yesterday it was investigating reports Iraq had used poison gas against Kurds. Washington said any such attacks were a serious breach of human rights.

The United Nations had received cables about reported Iraqi attacks against Kurds but will not comment on the matter, a UN spokeswoman said yesterday.

Iraq blames Iran for Gulf peace talks deadlock

GENEVA, Sept. 3, (Agencies): Iraq said today that Gulf peace talks remained deadlocked because Iran continued to reject its key demands that the Shatt Al Arab waterway be cleared of war debris and that freedom of navigation be restored in the Gulf.

"We have to say that we are still at square one, we have not gone beyond that square," Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told reporters as he emerged from a 75-minute meeting with United Nations negotiator Jan Eliasson.

He accused Iran of using its "traditional art of procrastination."

"The other side, the Iranian side, has not yet shown any substantive sign that it realises its commitment vis-a-vis the ceasefire, namely at sea and about the question of the survey and clearance of the Shatt Al Arab," Aziz said.

The Iraqi foreign minister said Iran was wrong in assuming that Iraq would give in to its demands.

Impose

"We have fought for eight years in order to make the Iraqis realise that they cannot impose their will on Iraq and on other countries of the region," he added.

Eliasson said before the meeting with the full Iraqi delegation he hoped today's separate talks with the two sides would achieve progress.

The peace talks got bogged

World may have 1 billion illiterates by 2000

AMMAN, Sept. 3, (Reuters): One billion people in developing countries will be illiterate in the year 2000 unless states spent more money on education, a UN official predicted today.

William Draper, Director-General of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said developing countries had cut expenditure on education from 13.2 per cent of their budgets in 1972 to 7.6 per cent in 1985.

Speaking at the opening session of a seminar in Amman on development strategies for the year 2000, he urged countries to realise the consequences behind such a cut and to give greater priority to education.

Requirements

"If this trend continues, there will be 1,000 million illiterates by the end of this century," he declared.

Draper listed five basic requirements for human development — education, health and nutrition, economic and political freedom, a healthy environment and work opportunities.

Developing countries, he said, needed to create 700 million new jobs to meet a drastic increase in the world's population by the turn of the century, when official estimates say it will have reached six billion.

Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan, patron of the Amman meeting, said conditions now existed in the world to formulate a strategy which would combine social and economic development to improve living conditions for people.

Rajiv reconsidering defamation bill

NEW DELHI, Sept. 3, (UPI): The government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is reconsidering a defamation bill amid a storm of protests that the measure is intended to gag the press and "stifle the citizen's right to know," newspapers reported today.

The newspapers, which included the Indian Express, the Hindustan Times and the Times of India, said the government had not anticipated the massive outcry generated by the legislation it rammed through the lower house of Parliament last Monday.

The upper house is scheduled on Monday to take up the measure, which would greatly broaden the legal definition of defamation. The newspapers, however, said the government is having second thoughts about proceeding with the bill.

The Times of India said ruling Congress (I) Party Members of

Parliament held meetings yesterday with senior leaders and warned them that ignoring the outrage over the bill could prove detrimental to the party with nationwide elections due by the end of 1989.

It and the other newspapers said the government was considering a number of options, including amending the most stringent portions of the act, referring it to a special committee or withdrawing it.

Strike

The bill's sweeping redefinition of defamation has provoked scathing editorials and protests nationwide. Journalists, lawyers and opposition groups charge it is aimed at blocking news reports on corruption allegations and other embarrassing issues besetting Rajiv's government.

Government officials, however, claim it is intended to prevent inaccurate and damaging reporting.

Benazir confident of victory in polls

LONDON, Sept. 3, (Reuters): Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP), said today she was confident of winning elections in Pakistan on Nov. 16.

"I'm often accused of being arrogant and I'm afraid I may be accused of being arrogant again — I don't see any party posing a national threat to the Pakistan People's Party," she said in an interview on a British television programme.

Speaking on a British Broadcasting Corporation programme, Benazir dismissed former President Gen. Zia-ul-Haq's policy of Islamisation, saying it had been a cover for military dictatorship.

"Inevitably Islam is an issue but we believe the issues are the issues of unemployment, of hunger, of poverty, of backwardness, illiteracy," she said.

"And as far as General Zia was concerned, we felt that as he was a military dictatorship, he sought to rationalise it by seeking cover under Islam."

Benazir said she did not think a new government would clash with the Army and added that she believed the armed forces would themselves welcome an end to military rule.

"The long years of military rule placed an enormous strain upon the Army," she said.

"It's not easy for an Army officer in a military court to be sentencing people of the Punjab to lashes, to gallows, sending their women even to torture chambers and they live in the same streets. Naturally this leads to resentment: brothers against brothers, cousins against cousins."

Soviets helping untangle regional conflicts: US

MOSCOW, Sept. 3, (Reuters): A senior US diplomat said today that Soviet co-operation had helped to bring progress on settling regional conflicts in Afghanistan, Kampuchea, southern Africa and the Gulf.

Michael Armacost, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, told reporters that a string of recent successes had set the tone of his four sessions of talks with Soviet first deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov this week.

He said the Geneva accords setting the terms for the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan had given impetus both to

US-Soviet ties and to other regional discussions.

"We regard the understandings in Geneva as a very positive step," Armacost said. "We reaffirmed our satisfaction that the Soviets, by Aug. 15, had met their obligation to withdraw 50 per cent of the troops that were there."

Concerns

He said Washington expected Moscow to meet the Feb 15 pull-out deadline and had expressed hopes that the withdrawal could be completed by the end of this year, although Vorontsov had said nothing to suggest that this

was likely.

Armacost said one of the chief US concerns at present was that Soviet military operations be limited to the protection of Soviet forces during the withdrawal.

He referred specifically to Kunduz, the northern Afghan provincial capital seized by Muslim guerrillas, for about a week last month.

Moscow has acknowledged that it sent planes based in the Soviet Union during the siege of Kunduz, but it said the town's capture preceded the withdrawal of all Soviet forces from the area and the aircraft were defending

countries.

Armacost said the United States viewed the incident as the reintroduction of Soviet troops to Afghanistan.

He said the heart of the Afghan problem remained "the absence of a legitimate government with broad support," and declared that the Soviet troops pullout would remove the main impediment to Afghan self-determination.

In a report on the Armacost-Vorontsov talks, the Soviet news agency Tass said "particular attention was paid to the need scrupulously to fulfil the Geneva agreements ... by all signatory

(Continued on Page 2)

INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty kicks off global rock tour

LONDON, Sept 3, (AP): Amnesty International launched a global rock tour on a high note as tens of thousands of fans packed London's Wembley stadium to hear Bruce Springsteen and other top performers in a concert focusing on human rights.

The six-hour, sell-out concert yesterday climaxed with Springsteen leading the cheering fans in "Chimes of Freedom," a Bob Dylan classic highlighting the human-rights theme that won Amnesty International a Nobel peace prize.

The show goes on the global road today, heading for a week-end concert in Paris and then to Hungary — the first stops in a six-week tour of some 20 cities on five continents.

Pleased
"I couldn't be more pleased," said Jack Hesley, Amnesty's US director and a tour organiser.

"We're selling out all round the world and we're feeling quite confident about ourselves... we have great artists, a great audience here and, I think, the greatest cause in the world."

More than 65,000 people flocked to Wembley to see the kickoff of the concert tour that marks the 40th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Springsteen shares the bill for the entire tour with British stars Sting and Peter Gabriel, American folk singer Tracey Chapman and Senegal's Youssou N'Dour.

From a podium surrounded by a turquoise and green globe map emblazoned with "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," the stars belted out well-known numbers, while the crowd swayed and applauded.

The show began with the four artists joining together to sing "Stand up for your rights," by the late reggae singer Bob Marley.

Organisers stress that the aim is not to raise money, but to stir the consciences of the young people in the cause of human rights. Amnesty hopes the tour will break even, but Reebok, a US sporting goods maker, has promised to pay for any shortfall.

Revival of Solidarity will be discussed

Polish workers end strike

JASTRZEBIE, Poland, Sept 3, (AP): Poland's worst labour unrest in seven years ended today when hundreds of miners carrying a Solidarity banner ended a sit-in at a coal mine, and workers in a northern port halted their strike.

About 205 dirty and unshaven workers left the July Manifesto coal mine, where they had been holed up since Aug 16. They sang the national anthem as they walked through a heavy drizzle to a nearby church about 6 am (0400 GMT).

Allegations
Solidarity activist Jan Litynski said the miners agreed to halt the strike early today after a night of talks with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa.

Walesa called for an end to the strikes on Wednesday after winning from the government the promise that the revival of Solidarity would be discussed at round-table talks including members of the opposition on how to pull Poland out of its economic crisis.

Earlier, about 2,400 port and transit workers in Szczecin left the work sites they had occupied since Aug 17. Artur Balasz, a member of the strike committee there, said they ended the sit-in at

12:15 pm (1015 GMT) despite worker allegations that the government had backed down on promises of job security for strikers.

The miners walked three kilometres (two miles) to a Jastrzebie church, where a priest celebrated mass for them, their families and supporters from other mines. Other miners waiting at the church chanted, "thank you, thank you," as the July Manifesto miners arrived.

A string of police vehicles pulled out of the city, road blocks were dismantled and no strike banners remained at the mine.

The nationwide strikes for legalisation of Solidarity, higher pay and better working conditions began at July Manifesto.

Negotiations
At its peak, the unrest involved 20 enterprises employing 100,000 workers, including the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk where Solidarity was born and where Walesa works as an electrician.

On Wednesday, Walesa appealed for an end to the strikes so that promised talks with the government could begin on the strikers' demands. The July Manifesto workers demanded that Walesa explain his appeal in

person. The opposition and authorities were preparing lists of proposed participants for the talks, said Roman Catholic mediator Jacek Ambrozak in Warsaw.

Walesa, who rose before dawn yesterday and drove seven hours from his Baltic coast home in Gdansk to the mine, pressed through the afternoon until early today with miners to end the strike.

A new round of negotiations with management was launched with Walesa's participation and lasted into early today, said officials at the mine.

Appeal
"Everybody was very nervous throughout... Walesa helped us out a lot. He helped map the way out of our situation," said Grzegorz Sawski, a member of the strike committee.

The dispute concerned winning guarantees of job and personal security for strikers, said a Polish journalist at the mine, who asked not to be identified.

The 1,800 dock workers and 600 bus depot workers in Szczecin offered to end their strike as soon as job security was guaranteed for strikers.

Thousands of PAF supporters cheered Lee after his party's eighth consecutive win. Six ministers, including Foreign Minister Supphal Dhanabalan and Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Long, the prime minister's son, were re-elected.

A total of 156 candidates contested 70 of the 81 seats at stake in the election today, called 15 months early at a time of impressive economic growth.

The election heralded a change of the guard for the PAP, 14 of whose veterans stepped down to make way for new candidates, most of them professionals in their 30s and 40s.

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, the only member of the old guard in the PAP line-up, has

indicated he will not complete a new term, sparking widespread speculation he would seek to assume a presidency with wider powers than the current mainly ceremonial post.

Attempt
The opposition made the elected president a major issue in its campaign, saying it was an attempt by Lee to remain in power even after retirement as premier.

But on the eve of polling day Lee, who turns 65 on Sept 16, announced he would not seek to become Singapore's first elected President.

The PAP has won all the polls with an average 72.8 per cent share of the vote since independence in 1965.

Watch takes an eating, keeps on beating

SPARTANBURG, South Carolina, Sept 3, (AP): A man who lost his \$3,800 Rolex watch when his Doberman Pinscher puppy swallowed it a month ago got the timepiece back — still ticking.

"It had the right time and date," Scott Aszkenas said of his timepiece yesterday. The silver-and-gold watch disappeared about a month ago after it popped off the newspaper photographer's wrist in his bedroom.

Aszkenas said he suspected his 5-month-old Doberman, Sampson, had swallowed the watch but couldn't feel it in his puppy's stomach until Tuesday.

Surprised
"I don't know how he swallowed it," he said. On Thursday, veterinarian Jim Grantham operated on the dog, and retrieved the watch. The dog's stomach acids didn't damage the watch.

Grantham said he was a little surprised to spot the watch in an X-ray on Tuesday, but he's pulled a lot of things from pet stomachs — like needles, tennis balls and panty hose.

"If they chew them up, it's no problem. But large objects always cause some damage going through," he said. He expects Sampson will suffer from gastric ulcers for a few weeks.

Chinese airlines
BEIJING, Sept 3, (AP): China's leading daily said today that poor service on the state-run airline "brings shame to the country and its ongoing reforms."

The People's Daily criticism of the Civil Aviation Administration of China came three days after a CAAC jetliner skidded off the runway at Hong Kong's airport and crashed into the harbour, killing six crew members and one passenger.

Lebanon faces a new political crisis

BEIRUT, Sept 3, (Reuters): Troubled Lebanon faces a political crisis with its President and prime minister disagreeing over a constitutional way out of an expected power vacuum should a President not be elected on time.

Parliament has still to choose a successor to President Amin Gemayel, whose six-year-term expires on Sept 23. Christian and Muslim leaders are deadlocked over who should replace him.

In the latest twist in a constitutional tangle, acting Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss yesterday withdrew his cabinet's resignation — submitted 16 months ago by his predecessor.

A moderate Sunni Muslim, Hoss acted in an apparent bid to stop Gemayel from replacing his team with a Christian-led administration.

"We withdraw the resignation of the cabinet... to spare the country events that could become landmines in the path of the presidential election and deflect it from its democratic course," Hoss wrote to Gemayel.

Violates
Gemayel announced in a statement that Hoss's move was "unconstitutional and violates laws and constitutional practices."

Hoss has been acting premier since Prime Minister Rashid Karami was assassinated in June last year. Karami had submitted his government's resignation three weeks before his death but Gemayel did not accept it.

The statement said that "by virtue of Karami's death, the cabinet was considered resigned

and dissolved."
"The resignation was submitted by Karami and not Hoss. Therefore Hoss is not legally qualified to reverse a government resignation which was tendered by the original prime minister. The reversal is in no way acceptable," the statement said.

Following Karami's death, Gemayel issued a decree appointing Selim Al Hoss as acting prime minister to head a caretaker government until the formation of a new cabinet.

In the decree, the President referred to Karami's cabinet as a resigned government which clearly implies that he had accepted the resignation," the statement added.

A presidential palace source said that Gemayel thoroughly discussed the legal aspects of Hoss's decision with his judicial, political and constitutional advisers for several hours before stating his reply.

Political sources say he plans to appoint a transitional Christian-led administration if no successor is elected on time.

Muslim and leftist leaders have said this would lead to partition of the strife-torn country.

Want
Meanwhile, the most senior Shiite Muslim cleric in Lebanon today blamed the United States for Parliament's failure to elect a new president and said such a policy would backfire.

"If the Americans want to continue with their dangerous game, then a force stronger than what they have known will explode in their face," said Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddin.

Bangladesh renews...

(Continued from Page 1)

High School and in the surrounding grounds.

"This is a curse from God," said 45-year-old Shaifur Rahman, a rickshaw driver. "I have come from a neighbouring town, but at least here, we will get government help."

A serious breach occurred yesterday in the Dhaka-Narayana-

ganj-Demra, an earthen embankment at the confluence of the Buriganga and Sitalakha Rivers that shields southern Dhaka and nearby Narayanganj.

Some 30,000 civilian volunteers and troops working through the dark hours managed to plug the leak with rocks and baskets of earth, saving an estimated 800,000 people from inundation.

Secret US satellite failed to reach orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Sept 3, (AP): A secret satellite, fired into space in an unannounced launch which the Air Force later called a success, failed to reach a functional orbit, a source close to the US space programme said.

The payload carried by the Titan rocket was secret, but a civilian expert said the booster carried a satellite that could eavesdrop on Soviet military and diplomatic communications.

Such a satellite would be useless unless it was in a stationary orbit.

Engineers were studying the problem to see if they could salvage the mission, according to the source close to the space programme, who spoke to the Associated Press late yesterday on condition of anonymity.

But the source was not hopeful anything could be done to put the satellite in the right orbit.

LT Col. Ron Rand, director of public affairs at the Eastern Space and Missile Centre at Cape Canaveral, said the Air Force had a policy of not commenting

on the results of military space launches.

The 16-storey Titan 34D blazed away from its launch pad at 8:05 am (1205 GMT) yesterday, thundering through partly cloudy skies.

The rocket's third stage ignited correctly the first time, putting the satellite in a highly elliptical orbit ranging from about 100 miles to 22,300 miles (160-35,887 kilometres) above the earth's surface, the source said.

However, the rocket failed to re-ignite, which would have put the payload in a proper geosynchronous, or stationary, orbit 22,330 miles (35,935 kilometres) over the equator, the source said. A flawless flight would have been the third straight success for the three-stage booster rocket, which had been grounded for 18 months.

As has been its practice in recent years, the Air Force did not announce the launch in advance, but issued a statement afterward.

Pakistan rejects Kabul proposal

ISLAMABAD, Sept 3, (AP): Pakistan today flatly rejected Afghanistan's proposal for an international conference on the Afghan war, calling the idea a propaganda ploy and accusing Kabul of violating the accords.

The conference — proposed by Afghan President Najib on Wednesday — would bring together foreign ministers of Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United States and the Soviet Union to discuss Pakistani and Afghan accusations against each other of violating the Geneva accords.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry said in a statement today that the proposal "appears to be no more than a propaganda measure designed to acquire international recognition and legitimacy."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Microlight flight

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 3, (AP): Indian millionaire Vijaypat Singhal flew over Gulf waters today as part of his bid to break a world record for solo flight in a microlight plane.

The 49-year-old adventurer took off from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and landed here. He planned to fly to Qatar, then Oman before proceeding to India in a 9,600-kilometre (6,000-mile) flight he began from England on Aug 18.

Arms smuggling

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Sept 3, (AP): The Swedish government uncovered an arms smuggling deal to Taiwan by the Bofors AB arms company but withheld information from a parliamentary committee investigating the company's illegal sales, a newspaper reported today.

The deal for 20 Robot-79 anti-aircraft missiles was done through double contracts and using Singapore as go-between to veil the final destination, the Dagens Nyheter daily reported, quoting unidentified sources.

Bofors also sent personnel to train the Taiwanese in the sophisticated weapons in 1983-1984, Dagens Nyheter said.

Murder charge

LOS ANGELES, Sept 3, (Reuters): Los Angeles prosecutors yesterday charged a Briton with the murders of an Israeli immigrant and his family who disappeared six years ago.

Harvey Rader, a 46-year-old car dealer, was previously arrested in 1983 on suspicion of murdering Los Angeles businessman Sol Solomon, his wife and two children. Their bodies have never been found.

Hashish seized

BENIDORM, Spain, Sept 3, (AP): Police seized seven tons of hashish on a ship docked in Barcelona and arrested 14 people further down the eastern Mediterranean coast in Alicante after tracking the ship's movements, they said.

It was the second-largest hashish haul in Spain's history, police and civil governors of Alicante and Barcelona said yesterday.

Air show

LONDON, Sept 3, (AP): Europe's biggest aviation event, the Farnborough Air Show, opens in southern England tomorrow with daredevil aerobatics displays by the British Red Arrows despite the air show disaster in West Germany a week ago.

Memorial service

RAMSTEIN, West Germany, Sept 3, (AP): President Richard Von Weizsaecker led mourners in a memorial service today for the victims of the Ramstein air show disaster, and officials said a 50th person had died from the fiery accident.

Soviets helping untangle...

(Continued from Page 1)

He said the United States was supporting Moscow's requests for the repatriation of Soviet prisoners of war, and believed Moscow felt it was up to the Afghans to chart their own future.

Armstrong said Washington viewed the increasing tempo of talks on Kampuchea as a positive development.

He said Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev had gone straight into the meeting with Vorontsov yesterday upon his return from Kampuchea talks in Beijing.

Armstrong said the fact that Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the exiled former ruler of Kampuchea, was taking an active role in the peace process gave grounds for hope.

"As far as we are concerned, the key issues are nailing down a prompt, irrevocable and unconditional withdrawal of Vietnamese troops," while ensuring that the Khmer Rouge did not return to a dominant position in government, he said.

He praised the Iran-Iraq ceasefire in the Gulf war, stressing that Moscow and Washington had co-operated on United Nations Resolution 598 on which the truce was based.

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

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Three killed as Palestinians clash in Beirut

BEIRUT, Sept. 3, (Agencies): Rival Palestinian factions battled using mortars and rocket-propelled grenades in south Beirut's Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp today. Police said three people were killed and nine wounded.

The five-hour clash pitted commanders of Dr. George Habash's Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine against fighters of Col. Saed Mousa's Fatah-Uprising. Palestinian sources said the fighting was triggered by an argument between two commanders.

"The personal fight developed into an armed confrontation... our positions in the camp came under heavy fire and we had to return fire," a PFLP spokesman said.

Dozens of Palestinian families traumatized by three years of violence were seen fleeing the camp as Syrian troops manning checkpoints at the entrances to the shantytown looked on.

A witness estimated 300 people fled the camp. A police spokesman said the clash stopped after neutral commando groups called a ceasefire in the camp on Beirut's southern edge.

"Police patrols couldn't enter the camp to launch an investigation," said the spokesman, who cannot be named, in line with standing regulations.

He said the casualties were evacuated to hospitals in West Beirut.

The PFLP operates under the umbrella of Yasser Arafat's PLO.

Mousa, better known by his codename of Abu Mousa, broke away from the PLO in 1983 and established headquarters in Damascus, the Syrian capital.

Commandos of Arafat's mainline Fatah group evacuated Bourj Al Barajneh, their last foothold in Beirut, on July 8 after the camp fell to Mousa's followers.



An injured student is taken away by policemen who entered a Seoul university to break up a demonstration that ended with violent clashes. (Reuters wirephoto)

South Korean students fight with police Kim confident of political stability

SEOUL, Sept. 3, (Agencies): Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung said today the military would never again be able to seize power in South Korea and he was confident the nation will achieve political stability.

Kim, in an interview, said he doubted radical South Korean students or communist North Korea would attempt to disrupt the Olympic Games in Seoul this month.

Students fought with police in Seoul today just two weeks ahead of the Games.

The head of the main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy said the political situation was complicated and uncertain, but he believed democratic progress would continue after the Olympics.

"We feel that after the Olympic Games our political situation can be stable," he said.

The armed forces would never again be able to rule the country because the South Korean people had become too strong and mature to endure any more military governments, Kim said.

"No general can dream of such a thing. Even if he takes power through a military coup it cannot last long," he said.

Kim played down concerns expressed by many Koreans about the possibility of a government crackdown after the Olympics. He said hardliners have emerged within the government, but he doubted they could take power.

Some opposition leaders fear the government is being moderate to avoid alienating world opinion during the Olympics, but there may be a crack-

down after the Games. South Korea has been ruled for most of its 40-year history by military and civilian strongmen.

Kim said President Roh Tae-Woo assured him in talks this week that the military would declare its neutrality in politics.

Radical students battled riot police today, witnesses said.

More than 500 students armed with sticks hurled fire-bombs and stones at riot police outside a Seoul University, yelling slogans against the government and the Olympics.

"Let's fight an Olympics hosted solely by Seoul," the protesters said. Radical students have continued to oppose a "divided Olympics" — Games not hosted jointly by North and South Korea.

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Burmese party reasserting its authority very quietly

RANGOON, Sept. 3, (Reuters): Burma's Army and ruling party are making plans to resume normal control over the vast Irrawaddy delta where the nation's rice crop is about to be harvested, Rangoon Radio said.

The announcement, broadcast by the official station last night, said Brigadier General Myint Aung, party head and military commander of the Irrawaddy Division, which borders the capital Rangoon to the south and west, met all the region's leading military, party and government officials yesterday.

They discussed "the resumption of normal operations, the harvest and sale of paddy, which will soon be harvested," the broadcast said.

The Irrawaddy delta, where the great river breaks up into nine channels to flow into the Andaman Sea, is in effect one vast rice paddy, 240 km (150 miles) wide and 290 km (180 miles) long.

Its fertility had once made Burma the world's top rice exporter, but 26 years of rule by the Burma Socialist Programme Party broke down farmers' motivation and the transportation and distribution system.

General Aung has been short of rice at times this year.

The Irrawaddy meeting also discussed the "observance of the state constitution, looting and destruction of public, co-operative, and private property, lawless acts and use of force" during a nation-wide revolt that has driven long-time ruler Ne Win from power and forced his successor Sein Lwin out of office after 18 days of mayhem and bloodshed.

A veteran analyst of Burmese affairs said the Irrawaddy meeting was one of several tentative steps taken by the party to reassert itself after losing control of many cities and towns and of essential national services such as the railway and oil refining.

He said the lack of concessions in a national address on Thursday night by President Maung Maung, who followed Sein Lwin as party chief on Aug. 19, showed the party was not about to give in to the demands of demonstrators.

The protesters want power to be handed over to an interim government that would move Burma towards a multi-party political system.

"The party is trying to reassert its authority as quietly as possible," he said, also citing warnings to student protesters to vacate government offices they had

seized and pleas to government workers to go back to their jobs.

Protest organisers called no major demonstrations for today, but thousands of students and striking workers streamed through the streets of the capital chanting anti-government slogans.

Striking railway workers vowed not to go back to work.

Strike

The next major push by anti-government forces is scheduled for Thursday. They have promised to begin an indefinite general strike on that day and stage a massive demonstration if the party has not handed over control.

A one-day general strike last Thursday stopped all economic activity in the impoverished country and sent hundreds of thousands of anti-government demonstrators onto the streets of Rangoon and other cities and towns.

Maung Maung has asked for patience until the party holds an emergency congress on Sept. 12. He has promised to push the congress into approving a referendum that would let the people decide whether or not to adopt a multi-party system.

Opposition leaders say this issue has already been decided in the streets.

Soviet troops sent back to Kandahar: rebels

QUETTA, Pakistan, Sept. 3, (Reuters): Afghan rebels said yesterday that the Soviet Union had flown troops back into the southern Afghan city of Kandahar to help repel guerrilla attacks.

A message from rebel commander Abdul Majid said up to 500 soldiers were airlifted into Kandahar on Thursday — less than a month after Soviet forces withdrew under the Geneva accords.

The Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) leader said some 18 helicopters were also flown into Kandahar to bolster defences against guerrillas who operate freely in parts of the city.

No independent confirmation was immediately available, but several other rebel groups based in Pakistan said they had received similar news.

It is pledged under the Geneva accords to remove the remaining 50,000 by Feb 15 next year.

The Soviet Union admitted on Wednesday that it had sent military aircraft back into northern Afghanistan to support units in the northern provincial capital of Kunduz. It denied US charges that it was breaching the Geneva accords.

Afghan guerrillas and Kabul troops have been battling for control of Kunduz for a month. Rebels captured it for a few days in the first half of August but it was later retaken by Kabul.

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False death claims uncovered after Indian earthquake

PATNA, India, Sept. 3, (Reuters): India today reduced its official death toll from last month's major earthquake after uncovering false reports of fatalities from people trying to claim government compensation, officials said.

The officials of Bihar, the north-eastern state rocked by the quake on Aug. 21, said they had reduced the death toll from 296 to 261.

They said the other 15 alleged deaths were reported by people trying to claim the \$5,000 (\$1,100) compensation offered by the government for fatalities.

The officials did not say whether any action would be taken against those accused of making false reports.

In neighbouring southeast Nepal at least 700 people were killed in the earthquake, which measured a powerful 6.5 on the Richter scale. Both have been hit by aftershocks, but no further deaths have been reported.

The Bihar officials said another aftershock felt widely in the state today measured 4.8 on the Richter scale. There was some panic, but no reported injuries in the three-second tremor.

Both countries are trying to clean up the wreckage left by the earthquake, which in Bihar destroyed or damaged nearly 80,000 buildings.

Floods caused by torrential monsoon rains have delayed clean-up operations. In the worst hit areas of Bihar, such as the town of Darbhanga, engineers were still awaiting the arrival of heavy lifting machinery before starting demolishing damaged houses.

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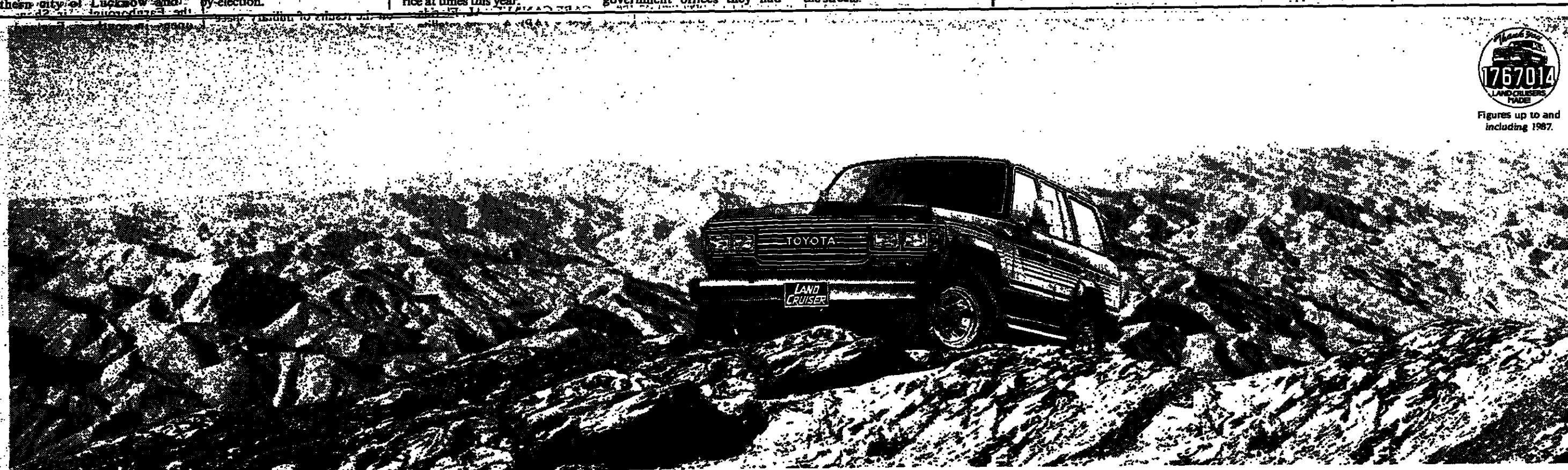
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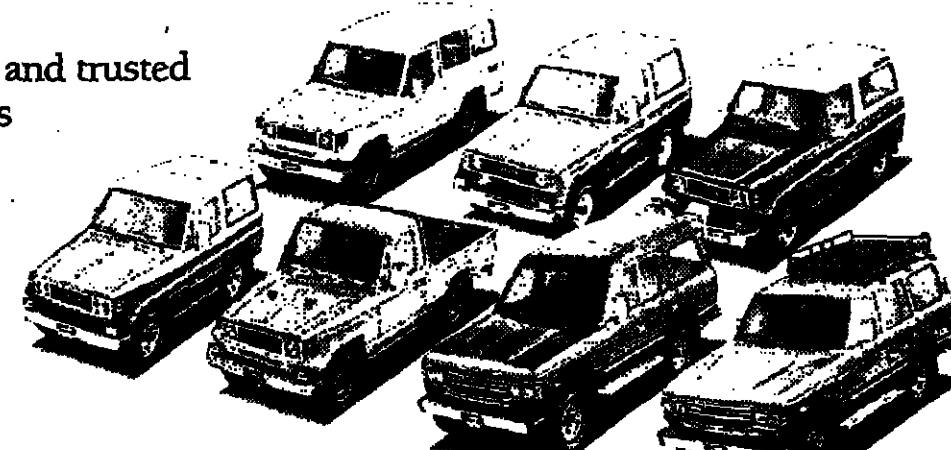
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Sheikh Sabah discusses flood disaster in Sudan with Mirghani

DEPUTY Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received the leader of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party, Mohammed Othman Al Mirghani.

Bilateral relations and the flood disaster in the Sudan were discussed. Floods left more than 1 million people homeless and destroyed thousands of houses and vast areas of cultivated land.

Sheikh Sabah also met with the head of the Popular Conference for the Lebanese Islamic and Nationalist Forces, Kamal Shatilla.

Sheikh Sabah also met with Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi who has returned from

Riyadh after attending the Gulf Co-operation Council's Finance Ministers conference last week.

Shatilla told KUNA after his meeting with Sheikh Sabah and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed that Sheikh Sabah expressed concern about the situation in Lebanon.

Integration

The Deputy Premier also expressed concerns about restoring Lebanon's unity, Arabism and independence and affirmed the importance of deepening national unity among all Lebanese, Shatilla said.

He said that exchanges with Al

Rashed focussed on Arab developments and dangers of the Israeli project in Lebanon, namely of occupation and partitioning of that country.

The talks also touched on the struggle by Lebanese nationalists for liberation, unity and justice in addition to their keenness on deepening Lebanon's integration with the Arab nation toward further Arab solidarity, he went on.

Shatilla also appealed to the GCC foreign ministers to pay more attention to the situation in Lebanon. He said Lebanon is facing foreign challenges which threaten to internationalise and divide the country.

5 warships dock at Abu Dhabi

DUBAI, Sept 3, (AP): Five warships of European and US naval forces in the Gulf were docked together at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates today, shipping sources said.

The group included HMS London, one of the two British frigates in the Gulf, the Dutch minesweeper Urk, an unidentified British minehunter, the Italian frigate Euro and the US command ship Coronado.

HMS London, Euro and Coronado are all flagships of their respective naval units in the Gulf. The Dutch and British minehunters are part of "Force Calendar," a special five-member unit under Royal Navy command. A Belgian minehunter also is in that group.

Concern

The sources, asking not to be named, said senior commanders met aboard HMS London but the subject of their talks was not disclosed.

The official emirates news agency WAM said Rear Adm. Anthony Less, commander of the US naval force, met with the UAE Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Mohamed Saeed Al Badi, to discuss "military issues and matters of common concern," including recent developments in the Gulf.

All the foreign navies are planning to reduce their forces in the Gulf region following the recent ceasefire in the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran, but their plans have not been spelled out publicly.

The English-language UAE newspaper Khaleej Times quoted Capt D. G. Littlejohns, commander of the London, as saying there was no change in Britain's policy of "accompanying" British-flag vessels in the Gulf.

Posture

"We have not changed our posture, which has been entirely neutral," he told the newspaper in an interview aboard the ship. He said it was "too early to make presumptions" about a reduction of the force.

British officers also were quoted as saying the clearing of mines from the Gulf would be a long and difficult task, and Littlejohns said, according to the report, that "no one can claim to know how many mines there are in the Gulf."

Senior US officers said recently that "a couple of hundred" mines remain in the waterway, many of them in known minefields.

Danish foreign minister arrives

DANISH Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen arrived yesterday heading a high-ranking delegation on a three-day visit to Kuwait.

He was received by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen and foreign ministry officials as well as Denmark's Ambassador to Kuwait.

Diplomatic sources said talks he will hold with Kuwaiti leaders will deal with the latest developments in the Gulf in light of the current peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

Ellemann-Jensen also was expected to discuss the Palestinian issue, including the current uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said the diplomats who could not be named under embassy rules.

He will later visit Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, they said.

The sources said Kuwait would urge its visitor to work for an active role by the European community in pressuring Israel to agree to the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, attended by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Kuwait's crime situation explained

THE crime rate in Kuwait is normal and well under control, according to the Public Prosecutor, Counsellor Ghazi Ubaid Al Sammar.

However, Kuwait has had "rare types of crimes" which never occurred here before, he said. Such crimes include robbery, sabotage, commercial cheating, and copying trademarks.

Statistics reveal that the majority of juvenile offenders are males and their offences range from theft, assault and moral offences.

He attributed the high rate of delinquency among boys to their unlimited freedom, being pampered by parents, and a total lack of parental control.

The official stressed that public prosecution should not be considered an opponent of the defendant, but as a neutral judiciary body with the sole aim of achieving justice. He said that the main aim of the public prosecution is to ensure that justice is served and the guilty are punished.

The diverse population of Kuwait has an effect on crimes. Forgery, theft, cheating and some forms of sexual abuse are mostly committed by expatriates, he said.

The Kuwaitisation of the general prosecution is proceeding according to plans. There are now 70 Kuwaitis out of a total of 111 members of the prosecution, Al Sammar said.

Annual telephone fee not to be doubled

THE annual KD30 subscription rate for telephone service will not be doubled at the beginning of next year, according to the Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan.

The minister was responding to complaints by subscribers in Sabahiya Telephone Exchange who were asked to pay KD60 for an annual subscription.

The ministry collects KD60 from new subscribers. The installation charge is KD30 and the

annual fee is KD30, Al Sharhan said.

He called on subscribers to pay their telephone bills within the stipulated period. Subscribers who do not pay their telephone bills within 60 days after receiving their bills will have their lines disconnected, he warned.

Subscribers who want their lines reconnected will be treated as new subscribers and charged KD60, Al Sharhan said.

Pearl diving journey ends

KUWAIT'S old pearl diving scene was revitalised Friday at the end of the 14-day pearl diving journey by nearly 100 Kuwaiti youths who joined veteran pearl divers in the Arabian Gulf aboard 12 wooden boats.

Upon their arrival at the Sea Club port Thursday evening, 96 youths representing the new generation and 20 veterans were received by assistant undersecretary for youth affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Abdel Rahman Al Mazroui, chairman of the club Fahad Al Fahad, board members and members of the diplomatic missions in Kuwait.

High humidity unlikely to return this summer

HIGH humidity recorded in Kuwait in the last week will not return for the rest of the summer, according to a responsible source at the meteorological department.

The humidity was caused by seasonal low pressure which was affecting the majority of Asian countries.

Humidity in Kuwait reached 98 per cent and the humid season was delayed this year. Normally, it begins in early July.

Humidity is expected to range between 40 to 70 per cent in the next few days because of Al Kous humid winds, the source added.

Importance of Wheat Cultivation Project stressed

A TOP official called on Kuwaiti farmers to view the "Wheat Cultivation Project" as one of vital importance, and to look upon wheat as a basic food that Kuwait needs.

The deputy director general of the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Ahmad Al Nageeb, said that farmers should not look at this project from a material point of view, but in terms of producing a critical commodity.

In an interview with a local daily, Al Nageeb said that the project was initiated by HH the Amir. Al Nageeb said that the authority will spare no effort in providing assistance to farmers. The authority will supply the ploughing machinery and fertil-

isers and insecticides if needed, he added.

The official announced that the government is ready to purchase the locally-produced wheat at twice the price quoted in the international markets. Booklets and guidelines for cultivating wheat have been distributed, he said.

Experiments

The poor response by Kuwaiti farmers to the project is due to the fact that wheat cultivation is Kuwait is a new experiment, he said.

Wheat has never been cultivated on a wide scale in Kuwait. However, Al Nageeb said he is hoping for a more positive response.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and



HH the Amir (right) yesterday received the leader of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party, Mohammed Othman Al Mirghani (second right).

Al Rashed comments on Middle East developments

THE address of HH the Amir to the United Nations, planned for Sept 28, will be a historic event that demonstrates Kuwait's political clout and underlines its diplomatic and humanitarian role in the world community, a senior Kuwaiti official said yesterday.

In an interview with a local daily, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz asserted that Kuwait and its GCC sisters as well as the other Arab countries played a "direct" role in bringing the Iraq-Iran war to an end.

He called on Iraq and Iran to take advantage of the peace

opportunity and to co-operate with the UN Secretary-General to reach a just settlement and defuse tension in the region.

Despite the stumbling blocks in peace negotiations Kuwait will continue its role as a peace mediator, acting on its conviction that the inclination toward peace will be stronger than that of war, Al Rashed said.

Complicated

Peace is the only way to face crises and the superpowers believe that continuation of tensions in more than one area in the world will lead to regional conflicts, he said.

The growth of nuclear weapons and armament industries have complicated world issues and threaten even the big powers and is now hard to control, he said.

Al Rashed was optimistic that the PLO and the Palestinian people will regain their legitimate rights.

He added that the uprising managed to win world sympathy, and at the same time, boost the PLO's status.

Kuwait and the Gulf states will support restoration of the Palestinians' rights and establishment of an independent Palestinian state, he said.

New schools to be ready soon

THE Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education, Abdurrahman Al Khodari, has said that the ministry has been informed by the authorities supervising the construction of new schools that the schools will be ready prior to the beginning of the next

During a recent meeting attended by officials from the Ministries of Education, Housing, Electricity and Water and Public Works, plans for electrical and water connections were handed over to the Ministry of Electricity and Water, which will be complete by the end of this week.

Some schools will remain closed because they were built in

residential areas which are as yet unpopulated.

Al Khodari said all necessary measures have been taken by the ministry to provide school supplies.

Meanwhile, Al Khodari said that there will be no change to the four-year time period for primary education.

Speaking of the supplementary exams which started yesterday Al Khodari said that the ministry provided 16 centres for the tests.

He called on parents to urge their children to approach these examinations seriously and added that any absence will not be tolerated.

Sharia graduates are jobless

STUDENTS of the College of Religious Affairs (Sharia) at Kuwait University said that over 120 graduates of the newly established college are now jobless.

Students warned that the college could find itself with no more students if the policy of not employing the college graduates continues.

Representatives of the students said yesterday that the Ministry of Education rejected their appointments as teachers because they did not possess any educational qualifications.

Students said several meetings

with senior officials of the Ministry of Education to discuss their concerns proved futile.

After spending four years at the college to obtain their Bachelor's degrees in Islamic Studies, the students are unable to find jobs suitable to their qualifications, they said.

One of the graduates said that during the last session, only 14 students were admitted to the Sharia College. Four did not attend, two transferred to other colleges and only eight students remained.

The graduates explained that all students now realise the plight of students graduating from this college.

Post offices notice

THE Ministry of Communications has announced the availability of a number of post office boxes in Salmiya Central Post Office and Hawalli Post Office for residents of the following areas:

Salmiya, Rass, Rumaithiya, Salwa, Hawalli, Hawalli Square, Nugra, Jabriya and Surra.

Those who wish to rent a post office box should call the above-mentioned post offices.

Saudis reject interference in internal affairs

RIYADH, Sept 3, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia last night reaffirmed its rejection of any interference in its internal affairs from any other country.

A Saudi official source, commenting on his country's Council of Ulemas (Muslim Theologians) decision said that it was based on Islamic Sharia (law).

The source clarified that Riyadh will not permit anyone to circulate in Saudi Arabia ideology or principles that do not conform with Islamic teachings.

The Council of Ulemas ruled a couple of days ago, that saboteurs and terrorists can be punished by execution in the Saudi Kingdom.

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1. Offset Machine Man (B.T.O)
 2. Letter Press Machine Man
 3. Binder
 4. Composer — full time and part time
- Contact between 8 to 1 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm, Tele. 4847643.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saeed Al Abdullah, and Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

HH also received the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Abdulla Ahmed Al Moguld who sought permission to leave the country to assume his new job.

HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saeed Al Abdullah yesterday received the leader of Sudanese 'Unionist Democratic Party, Mohammed Othman Al Mirghani, and his accompanying delegation.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khafid Al Jassar, Kuwait's Ambassador to Sudan Abdullah Al Surja and Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammed Amin Abdullah attended the meetings.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saeed Al Abdullah yesterday received Interior Minister Sheikh Salem, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan and Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Al Houli.

Sheikh Saeed also received the adviser at HH the Amir's office, Mohammed Sulaiman Al Sayed Al, Minister of Public Health by Abdul Razzak Yousef Al Abdul Razzak and Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi.

Sheikh Saeed later received board chairman and managing director of the Petrochemical Industries Co., Abdul Baqi Al Nouri.

Congratulations

HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saeed Al Abdullah yesterday sent congratulatory cables to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani on his country's independence day.

Sheikh Saeed sent a similar cable to Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Iraq-Iran negotiations

A KUWAITI newspaper yesterday said the Iraq-Iran negotiations in Geneva are now at a bottleneck since the Gulf war has not yet agreed on how to fix the ceasefire which took effect on Aug 20.

Quoting ranking Arab sources, the daily said negotiations have not yet touched on troop withdrawal to internationally recognised borders, despite reports to the contrary.

The UN-sponsored Geneva talks, which opened on Aug 25, are now bogged down over how to agree on ceasefire of sea. Iran is adamantly claiming a right to intercept and search vessels crossing the Strait of Hormuz, according to the paper.

Iran also opposes Iraq's demand that the UN clear Shatt Al Arab from war wreckage to make navigation possible, the paper said. Iran believes this should be discussed after the two belligerents consolidate the ceasefire, withdraw to their borders and swap prisoners of war.

According to sources, a compromise put forth by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar failed to win the favour of the permanent members of the Security Council which requested modifications.

The UN chief's proposal was also criticised by Iraq because it linked freedom of navigation to troop withdrawal while Baghdad sees its right to free and safe shipping as a priority.

The secretary-general's suggestions also included setting up a demilitarized zone between Iran and Iraq to help them strengthen the truce, the newspaper said in a dispatch from Paris.

The UN chief, who has delegated a Swedish diplomat to oversee the Iran-Iraq negotiations, left Geneva feeling that his mission was uncomplicated.

He originally hoped that within 10 days Iran and Iraq would agree on a timetable for fixing the ceasefire on land, in the air and at sea. He also wanted troop pullouts, exchange of POWs and to form a neutral committee to probe who was the aggressor in the war, the paper said.

Jafar Marafi & Sons General Trading and Contracting Co.



Announces the termination of the services of Mr. K. Joseph Baby as Commercial Manager. Mr. Baby no longer has the authority to act for or sign any documents on behalf of this company. This notice is to serve as legal warning not to deal with Mr. Baby under any circumstances regarding this company. This company will no longer be responsible for any of Mr. Baby's actions.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

GENIUS is one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration — Thomas A. Edison, US inventor (1847-1931).

Cartoons highlight Egypt's plight

By Sara El-Gammal

CAIRO, (Reuters): Hamid Effendi, a bald Egyptian civil servant, was forced to sell his clothes to pay his bills.

Now this hero of a daily newspaper cartoon is drawn sitting with other nude government employees in a coffee shop, dreaming of ways to make money.

The cartoon highlights the country's ailing economy and the plight of some four million poorly-paid civil servants.

Hamid, whose salary cannot buy him enough food to keep his digestive system at work, quips in one cartoon: "There are three things that are unnecessary in an employee: his teeth, stomach and intestines."

Most Egyptian government workers earn between 40 and 150 pounds (\$17 and \$65) a month. The government, reeling under a \$43 billion foreign debt, a population of 53 million people and low oil revenues, juggled its budget in June to provide a 15 per cent salary increase for state employees — among Egypt's lowest-paid.

Balance

But despite the attempt to establish some sort of balance between wages and prices, many civil servants were not happy.

"Pay raises are bad news, very bad news," said Abdel-Fattah Sutehi, a government worker for 25 years who earns 100 pounds (\$43) a month to support himself, his wife and two teenage children.

"A raise is supposed to better our living conditions, not make it worse," he added.

Cartoonist Mustapha Hussein came up with the idea for Hamid in the mass circulation Al-Akhar newspaper when the pay rise was announced because such increases are usually accompanied by steep price hikes.

"Profiteers take advantage of the raise and put their prices up... that is why I depict employees as barefooted and naked, because

something should be done to ease their burden," Hussein told Reuters.

Hamid, whose name means "thankful" in English, joined the boy scouts so he would receive a free pair of shorts to cover his bare bottom because he could not afford to buy any clothes.

A few mornings earlier, he showed up as a skeleton after renting his body out to medical students for an anatomy class.

Kamal Ali, a civil servant for 29 years, said he was able to relate to Hamid's problems, especially his nakedness.

"I feel naked when I have to tell my son who is studying to be an engineer I can't afford to give him 3.50 pounds (\$1.5) for sketch paper," Kamal said.

Over the past decade the cost of living has risen about 450 per cent compared with pay raises of 45 per cent, said Ezzat ElSaadani, a writer for Al-Akhar newspaper quoting figures from parliament sessions. Official figures for the fiscal year from July 1986 to June 1987, however, put inflation at 25 per cent.

President Hosni Mubarak told government workers in July that they were luckier than most to get raise of 15 per cent as resources were barely enough to provide wages and services.

Salaries "Some rich countries have lowered salaries. We have not done that despite world price increases," Mubarak said.

But many employees blame their plight on what they say is the government's inefficiency at fixing prices and clamping down on profiteers.

Mubarak said his government was providing some \$4 billion in food subsidies. But they have failed to stabilise prices because 60 per cent of Egypt's food is imported.

For many state employees a main meal consists mostly of bread, cooked beans, eggs and sometimes vegetables. Meat and fruit are rare delicacies.

Reagan administration might trigger a totally unexpected event

Dukakis camp afraid of 'October surprise'

NOBODY in the Michael Dukakis camp is talking about it in public, but what the Dukakis people are most afraid of is a so-called "October surprise". It means that if by October the race looks like a dead-heat, the Reagan administration might trigger a totally unexpected event.

It could also happen by coincidence. One such surprise could be the release of the American hostages held somewhere in Lebanon. Very quiet feelers have been put out from Washington and London, mostly through various intermediaries in Tehran, but so far without success.

It is obvious, however, that those hostages have lost by now much of their value in any bargaining and are an obstacle to Iranian desires to re-establish more normal relations with countries that matter economically and financially.

True, Reagan would get most of the credit, if the hostages were freed but it would help the Republicans in general and Vice-President George Bush in particular.

Summit Another "October surprise" would be a Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting. There is no doubt that both would like to have another get-together. As of now though the odds are against it. The arms control negotiations in Geneva are making quiet progress in overcoming some of the more difficult problems of verification which are much more complex than those agreed to under the INF Treaty, but that does not mean that a START Treaty will be ready for signing before the end of October, or even before the end of this year, unless Gorbachev offers some unexpected and far-reaching concessions.

Meanwhile Dukakis has come to realise that he is pitted against a much tougher opponent than he assumed after his own shining performance at the Democratic Party convention. George Bush stepped out of the Reagan shadow last week with an impressive performance of his own.

He came through to the public and the news media as a seasoned, quietly confident man with leadership qualities, comfortable in his role and well aware of his own strength and weaknesses. He even had the wit to make fun of a deadly remark that brought the house down at the Democratic convention, namely that he was "born with a silver foot in his mouth".

He referred to it saying that on confessing to his wife that he was some parties that are lukewarm," Ghazi said.

In May, Zia dissolved parliament, citing corruption, laxity and lawmakers' failure to promote Islamic law over a three-year period as justification for his move.

Order

He then issued a presidential order in June that decreed the legal code of Islam to be the supreme law of Pakistan and expanded court powers to review laws for conformity with the Holy Quran.

Benazir was quoted at time as saying that "Islam, like in the past, is again being used to perpetuate oppressive rule."

Zia said the decree wouldn't affect the rights of non-Muslims, or the country's business contracts with other nations.

The order expires later this year unless reaffirmed by the government.

Defining the relationship between Islam and the country's legal system has been a central question since 1947, when Pakistan was created as a home for Muslims on the Indian subcontinent.

Many Islamic principles were enshrined in law before Zia came to power. But he sought to expand these dramatically, giving courts constitutional power to determine whether laws conformed to the Holy Quran and the traditions of the holy Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

Laws

Law dealing with the constitution itself, judicial procedure and fiscal and personal matters were excluded from the review at first, but some of these exemptions were removed by Zia's June decree.

Although special courts now review laws for compliance with Islamic tradition, final appeals still go to civil courts, rather than to the legal bodies of religious scholars that exist in some other Muslim states.

Many groups — including much of the middle class and many lawyers and educated women — have opposed Islamisation, believing the country should not turn its back on educational and legal traditions from the West that have been in place since the British colonial era.

having problems with his speech, she suggested that he take off his shoes and put up his silver foot. This technique of humorous self-depreciation contributed to President Reagan's popularity and it did the same for Bush, at least at the Republican convention. His speech was written by one of Reagan's former speech writers.

What would have been a soaring success and a brilliant start of the Bush campaign however was marred by his choice of his vice-presidential running mate. The disclosure that Dan Quayle used his father's and his own influence to join the National Guard, which is a kind of home guard that is rarely sent overseas, to allegedly escape being drafted into the Army during the Vietnam war, has hurt the unsuspecting George Bush. Pulling strings was of course something that thousands of parents did at the time for their sons.

The difference is that none of them sought the vice presidency later. It puts Quayle in sharp contrast to the courage Bush is credited with during his service in the Navy in World War II.

Expose What in my view will prove to be worse is that Quayle will expose himself in the course of this campaign as a windbag, a man who should not be a heart-beat away from the president.

His choice goes against the basic principle Bush announced before choosing Quayle that his running mate must be of presidential calibre.

It is that aspect of Bush's choice that is much more disturbing than the fact that Quayle dodged military service. However, unless the investigation now in progress uncovers something seriously embarrassing, something much more than string-pulling and favouritism, the current maestro will die down. No doubt, however, it has hurt Bush and slowed down the momentum of his campaign and aroused new doubts about his own judgement.

That does not mean that Bush could not still win the presidency, in fact, the latest polls, at least for the moment, show him well ahead of Dukakis. Americans, traditionally are rarely influenced in their voting by the vice-presidential candidate. They vote for the presidential candidate. Indirectly, the choice of Quayle also indicates to the undecided voters that Bush has moved to the right and that could cost him their votes and those of the so-called Reagan Democrats who played a decisive role in Reagan's victory in 1980.

Moscow scene

Glasnost, perestroika and pizza

By John Iams

MOSCOW, (UPI): Munching a slice of pizza alongside the Moscow River, dining at a floating French restaurant, or reading about how Alexander Solzhenitsyn is a terrific writer, Moscow these days isn't what it used to be.

Returning after a 2 1/2 year absence, one finds more people have cars, traffic is heavier, but food is scarce and the lines to buy it are longer than ever.

The Soviet Union is still a communist society. That is not going to change under Mikhail Gorbachev. Elections might open to have more than one candidate, but all will be good party members.

McDonald's may soon have an outlet on Gorky Street and American-style pizza is popular. But for ordinary Soviets, these are rare and extravagant treats.

Glasnost, the freedom to discuss Soviet problems openly, is the most highly visible change. The brutal Stalin era is being aired with a vengeance. Open debates on formerly forbidden works of writers such as Solzhenitsyn and Boris Pasternak and art exhibits that would never have

been shown two years ago are startling results.

Announcing a new exhibit in Moscow, including previous secret letters of dictator Josef Stalin, the Tass News Agency says:

"On view are rare photographs and manuscripts of Boris Pasternak, Marina Tsvetayeva and other famous writers and poets whose works were banned and subjected to attacks from official critics. The fact that the exhibition has been mounted reflects the processes of democratization currently under way in Soviet society."

Praised

Thousands stand in line for up to five hours at Moscow's Youth Palace to see a show by Soviet artist Ilya Glazunov, hyped in the press and praised by Soviet officials.

It features two huge collages depicting historical and religious characters. One shows the 20th century and features portraits of Lenin, Christ, Stalin, John F. Kennedy, the Beatles, Mick Jagger, Albert Einstein, Solzhenitsyn, Adolf Hitler, Mao Tse-Tung and a prominent blonde nude depicting a moral decline.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1571 — Marian Party in Scotland stages successful coup in which regent Lennox is killed.

1576 — Members of the Netherlands Council of State suspected of Spanish leanings are imprisoned.

1627 — Turks sign treaty with Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II.

1669 — Venetians surrender Crete to Turks after siege begun in 1648.

1872 — Anglo-French dual control of Egypt is re-established.

1916 — British forces take Dar-Es-Salaam in Tanganyika.

1929 — German dirigible Graf Zeppelin completes trip around world.

1932 — France and Poland sign mutual assistance agreement.

1957 — Egypt and Syria form economic union.

1959 — Emergency is declared in Laos, with alleged aggression by North Vietnam.

1964 — British Commonwealth troops move against Indonesian guerrillas in Malaya.

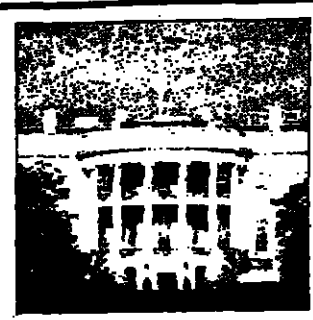
1974 — United States establishes diplomatic relations with East Germany, the last major Western nation to do so.

1975 — Representatives of Egypt and Israel sign new interim peace agreement in Geneva, Switzerland.

1987 — UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar says Iran has agreed to negotiate implementation of UN peace plan to end its war with Iraq.

Inside Washington

By Henry Brandon



MICHAEL DUKAKIS

Dukakis' expectation, on the other hand, that he will be able to win this election on the basis of his strong personality and by stressing competence rather than issues, after Bush's performance at the convention, is bound to be disappointed. It will not be enough for him to speak in generalities, he will have to be much more specific about what he means by a nation-wide health insurance scheme, on what he means by refusing to modernize the nuclear deterrent, how he plans to pay for his many welfare plans and how he is going to deal with the budget deficit.

There is also a great deal of talk in Dukakis home state Massachusetts that he may have to deal with his own "October surprise", a serious budgetary crisis that could be very embarrassing to him as governor of Massachusetts and undermine his claims of competence.

Dukakis' greatest advantage in this election is the tendency of American voters to get tired of an administration that has been in office for eight years and out of boredom and a desire for change, vote for the opposition. It has also something to do with the fact that there are no great differences between the policies of the two parties in power. People therefore are less afraid of a political upheaval that could develop in that process. Bush is well aware of this disadvantage he is facing. Still he believes that promising to continue President

Reagan's policies is an advantage and will help him counter the public's desire for change.

In the meantime, as the ceasefire descends on the Iran-Iraq war, the American military is trying to determine what is to be learned from that war. The biggest lesson, it is widely admitted in the Pentagon, is that the United States needs a better balanced fighting force than it has at its disposal now. For years the planners thought in terms of a war against the Soviet Union; they paid little attention to the kind of situation the United States had to face in the Gulf. A better and more cost-effective defence programme, will become even more important as further restrictions on spending are imposed on the defence budget by the US Congress. On that score there is not much of a difference between the two presidential candidates. Dukakis calls for "stable defence spending" and Bush stresses keeping the current level of defence spending in real dollar terms. The trouble is that under the feisty former Secretary of the Navy, John Lehman, the stress he put on an offensive naval strategy and the consequent need for a 600 ship Navy badly distorted the balance between the services and cut down funds for fighting more limited engagements.

Force

The second lesson that is being drawn from the Gulf experience is about the use of force. Some three years ago Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger developed the theory that military force should only be used if the United States has the necessary superiority to be confident of winning. And in order for such a situation to exist the American forces had to have indigenous pockets of military support on the ground.

Secretary of State George Shultz openly disputed the rules of engagement laid down by Weinberger. Instead, he argued that in order to pursue a successful diplomacy the United States had to be able to back it up with military force and the will to use it if necessary. Events in the Gulf confirmed Shultz's theory. As the situation in the Gulf changed from a superficial American involvement to one of protecting a few reflagged ships and this mission began to escalate, the US had to have the flexibility to expand its naval and Air Forces to reinforce its diplomatic strategy.

A third lesson was the importance of making this involvement a multinational one, of persuading

the NATO allies and Japan to join in the Gulf operations. Their presence and co-operation enabled the US to preserve popular support, for staying in the Gulf without any serious objections from Congress, though at the beginning it tried to impose some control over the length of the involvement.

These objections petered out once the allies assumed a certain amount of responsibility for the safety of the Gulf. It is a lesson which the allies should remember for future reference. It would also be important for the Gulf states to assume a greater share for the costs of the American naval operation, again for future reference, to make sure that American aid will be forthcoming when another need arises.

Lesson

A third lesson concerns the War Powers Act which obliges the President to obtain Congressional approval whenever American military forces are engaged in warfare action for more than 60 days. After much initial protesting when President Reagan refused to bow to these Congressional demands, most members of Congress recognized that forcing the President's hand would create serious doubts around the world about how much reliance could be placed on American military commitments if they depended on the unpredictable actions of Congress. Even after the catastrophic mistake by the USS Vincennes, when it shot down a passenger plane, there were no demands in Congress for getting out of the Gulf.

Advantage

Finally, there is the lesson of the advantage in relying on a volunteer force rather than draftees. It makes it easier to raise military forces in situations such as the one that developed in the Gulf. Even though good many American lives were lost, the families of those who suffered losses did not question the intervention in the Gulf.

The Reagan administration has been following the student demonstrations in South Korea with growing dismay. Many Americans, even some of those who expected to participate in the Olympic Games, have decided to stay at home for fear that the Korean government would not be able to preserve order and "protect" participants and visitors. There is a feeling here that the government will also have to deal with the internal problems that it did not turn its attention early enough to dealing with the North Koreans and the problems of the security of the Olympic Games.

Eliasson familiar with Gulf problem

GENEVA, (AP): Jan Eliasson, appointed on Thursday as the UN secretary-general's special representative in the Iran-Iraq talks, is a Swedish career diplomat who has had extensive experience in dealing with the Gulf war problem as a formal UN mediator.

Eliasson, 47, has been Sweden's ambassador to the United Nations in New York since March. From 1980-1986, he was a special aide on Iran and Iraq to former Prime Minister Olof Palme, and in that capacity travelled to the region a dozen times. Palme was appointed special UN mediator in the Iran-Iraq war in November 1980, by then Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, just after the conflict broke out. He was assassinated in Stockholm on Feb 28, 1986.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in announcing Eliasson's appointment, praised the diplomat as an experienced negotiator and UN delegate who was "the right hand of Palme" in the prime minister's "remarkable efforts" to end the Gulf war.

Praised

"I therefore think it is to the benefit of our common cause that I have now Eliasson as my special representative," he told reporters. "We are going to work together very closely. He has my full confidence and I am sure he will follow the same tactics I have."

Eliasson told reporters he was "very gratified to be asked by the

secretary-general to perform this important function," which he described as "a difficult one."

Grateful

He said he was grateful that the United Nations had the confidence of Iran and Iraq. "I hope very much in this work to have the strong support of the parties and the continued confidence of the parties," Eliasson said.

Eliasson was born in Goteborg on Sept 17, 1940, and entered the foreign service in 1965. Aside from numerous foreign policy posts in Stockholm, including department head for Asian and African Affairs, he has served in the Swedish embassies in Bonn and Washington.

Eliasson is married and has two daughters and a son.

Israeli study shows

Chance of war with Syria decreases

By Nicolas B. Tatro

TEL AVIV, Israel, (AP): Syria's faltering economy, a lack of allies and friction with Moscow mean less chance of a war with Israel, according to an Israeli analysis released on Wednesday.

The assessment contrasted with frequent warnings from Israeli officials and military commanders who stress the military threat posed by the Soviet-backed Syrian regime.

However, the study by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies said enhanced Arab capabilities meant Israel's rear echelon was no longer immune to missile or chemical weapons attack.

The 498-page annual study entitled Middle East military balance reported that Syria's total armed forces had declined from 840,000 in 1986 to 730,000 last year. It said President Hafez Al Assad was forced to trim his defence budget by about \$100 million or 3 per cent last year.

"Due to extreme economic difficulties, Syria was forced to mothball a couple of divisions and remains without allies. It also increasingly appears to be encountering differences of opinions with the Soviets," Joseph Alpher, executive editor of the study, said in an interview.

Alpher predicted the end of the Iran-Iraq war would likely increase the traditional rivalry between Baghdad and Damascus. Such tensions plus the unresolved conflict in Lebanon would likely preoccupy Syria and make it difficult to plan a surprise attack.

Retired Brig. Gen. Aharon Levran, a former intelligence officer, wrote that the belt-tightening "genuinely weakened" the armed forces by reducing training time and cutting back on fuel and food for the troops.

He said other measures taken included warehousing hundreds of tanks and turning regular Army units into reserve forces.

"If a state plans to go to war in the next six months or a year, it usually doesn't do things like that," said Levran, who also commanded armour and infantry units before retiring in 1984.

The mothballing process may have had a positive effect in that it actually diminished the risks of war.

The Jaffee Centre experts said that in any future war Israel would be more vulnerable to attacks aimed at population centres or locations where reserve units are mobilized.

They said Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia had developed

intermediate-range ballistic missiles, chemical warheads and longer range air power.

"The widespread use of ground-to-ground missiles in the Gulf war... may give certain ideas to those armed with them, and I see a very reasonable possibility that they will be used on military targets in a possible future war and maybe even the home front," said retired Brig. Gen. Aryeh Shalev of the Jaffee Centre.

Alpher said Iraq became the first Arab country to develop a long-range bombing capability, even though it was only 18 per cent effective in hitting targets.

Bombing

"At least on paper, that air arm could be used against Israel just as it was used in long range bombing runs all the way to the Straits of Hormuz (in the Gulf)," Alpher said.

He also said Iraq had emerged from the war with a large Army and a newly developed ability to move armour quickly with an improved force of 5,000 tank transporters.

"They have displayed a considerable talent in mobilizing strategic armoured defence forces... from one part of the front with Iran to another. This was part of the secret of their success on the defensive," he said.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait Fund likely to give funds for reconstruction

Iraq may expect more credit in 1988 and '89

By Jadranka Porter

WESTERN export credit agencies are closely watching the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations in Geneva, and each other, in anticipation of moves to put together an aid programme for reconstruction of the war-ravaged countries.

Diplomats in Kuwait said that funds for reconstruction are likely to be channelled through international aid agencies. Kuwait's participation will probably be through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

However, further progress in peace negotiations is needed before concrete steps towards financing reconstruction can be taken, the diplomats said.

Each export credit agency which offered export credit cover to Iraq wants to see how their counterparts respond to the ceasefire. All major Western countries offered credits to Iraq in recent years.

When Iraq started its winning series of offensives in April, its

major trading partners signalled their willingness to extend their lines of credit, despite Baghdad's \$60 billion military and non-military debt.

Diplomatic reports from Baghdad, compiled before the ceasefire, contend that Iraq may expect further credit in 1988 and 1989 from the US Eximbank if its repayment of Eximbank's export guarantees of up to \$200 million for sales of capital goods and spare parts proceeds on schedule. This amount was offered in July 1987 and was expected to have been exhausted by now. It followed Iraq's repayment of a modest debt to the same creditor in 1986.

More significantly, the US has offered Iraq agricultural credits of over \$960 million with both two and three years repayment terms. Commodities included are livestock, grains, poultry, tobacco and lumber.

American officials in Baghdad reportedly believe that Iraq could be expected to repay more than \$1.1 billion in new credits. But they have also acknowledged the political motives behind

the offer. By offering these credits, the US has displaced some of its major agricultural competitors for some commodities in Iraq, the reports said.

Relationship

Britain, which enjoys a long-term relationship with Iraq, was one of the first countries to grant Iraq a loan in 1984 and has continued to offer new loans, the latest of which is believed to be a credit line of £175 million made available in Sept 1987.

Iraq appears to have taken particular care not to alienate Britain. Baghdad made orderly and timely payments of principal and interest and even refrained from taking maximum credit offered by the Western power.

Total Iraqi medium-term debt to UK is estimated at US \$1.4 billion. The volume of Britain's exports to Iraq has fallen in keeping with overall reduction in Iraqi imports, but this is offset by a "comfortable trading and credit relationship between the two countries based on well-defined commercial and credit terms and manageable levels of debt," the report said.

France is not likely to press

Iraq to repay what is thought to be more than \$6 billion debt out of which \$2.5 billion was guaranteed by Coface, the French export credit agency.

French military sales to Baghdad as well as Iraqi oil exports to France have elevated ties between the two countries to a special political relationship, the reports said. Supporting this view is the fact that France was willing to offer revolving credits to Iraq as part of a rescheduling agreement.

French imports to Iraq have dropped 35 per cent from 1986 to 1987. Additional French credits agreed in 1987 and 1988 are seen as a move to safeguard the significant French investment in the Iraqi market. Bearing in mind the French military supplies to Iraq, Baghdad is not likely to default in its debt to France, the analysts said.

Goods

West Germany, Iraq's outstanding supplier of capital goods and spare parts in early 1980s, has seen a drastic drop in its exports to the Arab state, from DM 7.6 billion in 1982 to DM 823 million in 1987.

West German officials are said to have doubts that Iraq will abide by the latest joint agreement under which Baghdad should begin repayment of some of the \$3 billion it owes the Western nation.

The large debt forced Bonn to offer Iraq additional credits in Nov 1987 to encourage it to repay DM 480 million in unpaid secured and unsecured letters of credit issued in 1985 and 1986. The West German export credit agency Hermes and most West German companies remain committed to the Iraqi market for the foreseeable future.

While it is difficult to put a figure on Italy's military credits to Iraq, on the commercial side, Italian companies and banks are owed at least \$2.6 billion of which over 90 per cent has been covered by the Italian export credit agency, Sace. Rescheduling of short- and medium-term credits has hit a snag due to a dispute over the method of interest calculation and repayment and the delivery of previously contracted warships.

The Iraq-Italy joint commission was scheduled to meet in

May to resolve this problem.

Italy's exports to Iraq have fallen by 50 per cent from 1986 to \$225 million in 1987. Large state-controlled companies such as ENI have expressed their determination to stay in Iraq.

Japan's commitment to Iraq continues despite its failure to reach an agreement on rescheduling repayment of at least \$2.4 billion, mostly in short-term letters of credit, that Iraq owes it.

No new Japanese credits have been made available to Iraq in the past two years, but Japanese trading companies remain interested in that market.

Many companies have approached foreign firms and governments with a request to support Iraq's export financing. Japan also continues to buy between 10 and 14 per cent of its oil from Iraq.

Japan is one of the largest Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) creditors to Iraq and used to be a major supplier of industrial goods. The volume of its exports to Iraq plummeted from \$3,026 billion in 1981 to \$1.21 billion in 1986 and further down to \$391 million in 1987.

World Business Summary

Fourth Saudi firm to float shares

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 3, (AP): Makkah Construction and Building Co. today became the fourth Saudi Arabian firm in a year to float its shares within the framework of the kingdom's bid to promote domestic investments. Makkah floated 3.36 million shares, or approximately 25 per cent of the company's total capital of 1,335 billion riyals (\$356 million). Shares are being sold for 100 riyals (\$27) each, although only 25 per cent of the face value of the stock will be collected from subscribers at the time of purchase. The company has yet to decide when the remaining 75 per cent will be collected. The offering will help finance Makkah Construction's rebuilding and development of the area around the Grand Mosque in Makkah, the western province city that Harbours the holiest shrine revered by Muslims all over the world. The firm's founding shareholders will be allocated the remaining 10,187 million shares, through a combination of "in-kind" and monetary shares. "Since it is a real estate company, most of the assets are property around the Grand Mosque," an official from Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment told the Associated Press. The centre is handling the flotation. Therefore, the founders will be issued approximately five million monetary shares; the rest will be allocated "in-kind," based on the value of property. The flotation will last 60 days, and the minimum subscription is 10 shares with the maximum open-ended. The three other companies that made public offerings so far were Taiba Company for Investments and Real Estate Development, Al-Jouf Agricultural Development Company, and Al-Rajhi Banking and Investment Corp.

Iran and China sign co-operation agreement

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Sept 3, (AP): Iran and China have signed an agreement for co-operation in the construction of a dam and two power plants in several Iranian provinces, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported today. The state-run agency quoted Iranian Energy Minister Abolhasan Khamenei as saying that under the agreement, China will provide technical assistance to an Iranian consultants' firm, affiliated to the energy ministry and entrusted with building the Kharkhe dam in the southern Khuzestan province. China and Iran, he said, also agreed to continue talks on co-operation in the construction of two "giant" power plants in the southeastern Kerman province and the northern district of Gilan. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the minister as saying several other electricity and water projects are under study and will soon be implemented across the country. But Khamenei did not say if China will have a role in these plans. He also did not say when the agreement was signed. He hailed the achievements of the energy minister in the past nine years, since the rise of the Islamic revolution to power in Iran. Khamenei said the capacity of power stations across the country has increased from 6,115 megawatt in 1979 to 11,046 megawatt earlier this year. He predicted an increase of an additional 2,700 megawatt in the next two years.

Indonesia issues new production-sharing terms

JAKARTA, Sept 3, (OPECNA): Indonesia has issued new production-sharing terms under which the production split of 85:15 in favour of Pertamina will be changed to 80:20 in frontier fields with outputs under 50,000 BPD. Energy and Mines Minister Giandjar Kartasasmita said yesterday that the new terms will be applied to oil companies renewing their contracts and those concluding new ones. He pointed out that the regulation constituted a new government measure to encourage new investments in the oil sector bearing in mind that in the next 10 years, a number of production-sharing contracts will expire. He said the oil companies concerned might entertain doubts about operating unless there was a long-term guarantee. Giandjar pointed out that the government was trying to make investment in the oil sector still attractive while safeguarding the national interest. The minister explained that under the new regulation, foreign oil contractors are allowed to conduct depreciation of capital goods by accelerated methods, amortisation of drilling costs and tax incentives. A production-sharing contractor could still get an incentive for development in form of a cut on income prior to dividing between government-Pertamina and the contractor.

Indonesia offers aid to IDB

JAKARTA, Sept 3, (OPECNA): Indonesian President Suharto yesterday offered his country's assistance to the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB). He told Dr Ahmad Mohammedi Ali, president of IDB, that Indonesian agricultural and industrial experts would be put at the disposal of IDB member states. The Indonesian president also expressed his country's desire to boost technical and economic co-operation with Islamic countries, adding that Indonesian economic establishments were ready to provide all necessary facilities to realise that goal. Suharto also welcomed the "remarkable role" being played by IDB in upgrading mutual commercial co-operation between Indonesia and IDB member states. He expressed appreciation for the bank's initiative in planning a symposium in Jakarta next year to familiarise Islamic establishments with Indonesian economic and industrial potentials. The IDB president arrived here on Monday for talks with officials on boosting co-operation between the bank and Indonesian establishments. He told journalists that his visit was also aimed at exploring the possibility of IDB financing for Indonesian agricultural and industrial projects.

Khorafi to attend OIC meeting

KUWAIT'S Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi will lead Kuwait's delegation to meetings of the Permanent Committee on Commercial and Economic Co-operation of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. The meetings are scheduled to start next Tuesday in Istanbul under the auspices of Turkish President Kenan Evren in his capacity as committee chairman. The conference will discuss a study prepared by the Islamic Centre for Trade Development on setting up a trade information network, and another study on commercial priorities between OIC members. A report by the Islamic Bank for Development will also be discussed and the ministers will review a report from a subcommittee on the previous session's resolutions.

The committee includes representatives from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine and Guinea. After the Istanbul meetings, Khorafi is scheduled to go to Tunis for the Economic and Social Council meetings next Thursday.

Fujeirah to expand Dibba port

ABU DHABI, Sept 3, (KUNA): The emirate of Fujeirah plans to expand and upgrade its port of Dibba on the east coast to handle transshipments of goods to Iraq and Iran and members of the Co-operation Council of Arab Gulf states, according to a report published today. The English language daily Gulf News quoted a spokesman for the Fujeirah Department for Industry and Trade as saying the Fujeirah government has decided to embark on this project because the port has great potential as a re-export centre due to its proximity to the Strait of Hormuz. The spokesman said a plan for expanding the port had already been commissioned by the Fujeirah Port Authority. The paper said Fujeirah's main port is also expecting an upsurge in business once reconstruction work gets under way in Iraq and Iran. The daily quoted the spokesman as saying a number of major international shipping lines were studying the feasibility of including Fujeirah port as a regular call for their big ships.

World oil prices could rise by the end of the year

CARACAS, Sept 3, (Reuters): World oil prices could rise from their current lows by the end of the year, even if OPEC fails to trim the surplus depressing the market, Venezuela's Energy and Mines Minister said yesterday.

Julio Cesar Gil told Reuters in an interview higher demand in the northern winter would boost prices, now \$4 a barrel below the organisations \$18-a-barrel target.

Gil said he could not predict how far prices would rise, but added, "the strengthening of the price could be small."

He said some experts thought the price could jump between \$2 to \$3 if OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) cut its output to 17.5 million barrels per day (BPD). He said output now was between 18 and 18.5 million BPD.

OPEC's current production ceiling is 15.06 million BPD for 12 of the 13 members. It would rise to almost exactly 17.5 million BPD if Iraq, the 13th member, got a quota equal to Iran's 2.36 million BPD, he said.

Iraq has ignored the quota system since last 1986, pumping whatever it wanted to back its demand for a quota equal to the higher allocation of its Gulf war foe Iran.

Gil said that if OPEC did not cut its output prices could decline next year, perhaps as early as the first quarter, when demand usually drops off with the onset of spring.

Demand

"In the fourth quarter of this year, there will be an increase in demand, even though we perceive the production level continues to be high," he said.

"But given the levels of stocks (in consuming nations), I think we could have difficulties, perhaps as early as the first quarter of 1989. If production continues at current levels, this could have a depressive effect on prices."

Asked about Iraq's current output, he said he thought it was between 2.7 and 2.8 million BPD.

Construction firm proposed for work in Iraq and Iran

ABU DHABI, Sept 3, (Reuters): Arab countries may set up a joint investment and construction company to tender for rebuilding projects in Iraq and Iran, a UAE official said yesterday.

Hamad Shehab, head of the UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the Arab Contractors Union (ACU) would meet in Morocco in October to discuss setting up the company with funding of up to \$5 billion.

Reconstruction

"Iraq has promised us as an Arab group that we will have a considerable share in reconstruction," Shehab said in an interview.

Shehab, deputy chairman of the ACU which groups 21 Arab countries, said some banks had shown interest in setting up the new company. It would also seek work in Iran if the conflict ended permanently.

He said such a company would help the construction industry in Arab countries compete with foreign firms.

Money supply growth quickens

China slows pace of change in economy to curb inflation

BEIJING, Sept 3: China announced measures signalling that the communist leadership wants to slow the pace of economic change, largely because of fears that now-rampant inflation could spark civil unrest.

At this week's meeting led by Prime Minister Li Peng, the State Council decided there will be no big price increases this year or next and pledged to combat inflation by placing strict limits on state spending, bank credit and money-supply growth, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Though officials say price overhaul, reducing government subsidies while raising consumer prices, is essential for economic efficiency, many fear that persistently high inflation could result in industrial strikes and urban unrest, according to the Wall Street Journal.

So economic planners now are proposing a more cautious tack: coming to grips with inflation before proceeding with changes.

Controls

The latest official statistics show urban retail prices in July rose 24 per cent from a year earlier. That's probably understating the problem. Consumers say the cost of food and other staples has doubled in the past year. Wages for most city dwellers are rising by only about 10 per cent a year, meaning that living standards for most of China's 200 million urban residents are declining.

Inflation is being fuelled by an overheated economy and lax

Japan posts 8pc output rise

TOKYO, Sept 3: Government officials are confident that the Japanese economy's brisk expansion will continue unabated, despite some signs of a possible slowdown.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry reported that production at Japan's factories and mines surged 8 per cent in July from a year earlier, but fell 0.7 per cent on an adjusted basis from June.

Despite the minor downturn from the previous month, the date basically represent a "sideward motion" in the economy, a ministry official said. MITI regarded the still robust year-on-year growth as a sign of continued strength in the manufacturing industry.

Meanwhile, however, Japan's leading indicator keeps sending bearish signals. The Economic Planning Agency said the leading indicator fell to 33.3 in June from 41.7 in May — well below the "boom-or-bust" level of 50.

Drop

But officials discounted the index's drop. "We are not especially worried," one planning agency economist said. "We think the basic trend will remain unchanged and the economy will continue to expand, though maybe at a slower pace."

Effect

Japan's economy has been growing briskly after overcoming the deflationary effect of the yen's appreciation since late 1985. Some economists have started predicting that the economy may run out of steam some

time in the current fiscal year, which began in March.

The planning agency's economists disagree. They pointed out that, for instance, there were some months during a period of expansion toward the end of the 1970s when the leading indicator sagged even in the midst of a booming economy.

Row

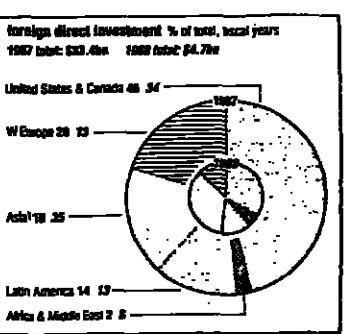
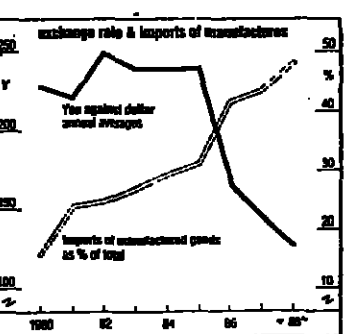
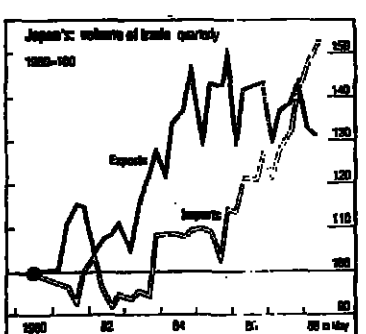
"The fact that the indicator turned down two months in a row doesn't necessarily mean that the economy will start contracting in some six months," one economist said. "In making judgements about the future, it's necessary to consider other things."

MITI attributed the slight softness in July's month-to-month production comparison

to downturns in certain important production of transport machinery dropped an adjusted 3.2 per cent from June, metals output fell 2.9 per cent, and general machinery was down 1.8 per cent. Production of electrical machinery, in contrast, rose 0.7 per cent.

The strong 8 per cent year-to-year rise in production, the MITI officials said, support the assessment that industrial growth is fuelled largely by increased orders for machines, as manufacturers upgrade production lines with more advanced technology to cut costs.

When the planning agency announced the indicator for May toward the end of July, government economists predicted that it would bounce back in June.



Oil futures prices sharply lower

NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP): Oil futures prices closed sharply lower yesterday, capping a bearish week brought on by reports of more over-production from members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, contracts for October delivery of West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude oil, fell 29 cents per 42-gallon barrel to close at \$14.79. Other contract months also dropped.

Analysts said the near-month contracts for crude oil slid to seven-week lows yesterday, breaking a key support level of \$15.10 a barrel, and dragging other contract months down.

Contract

Contracts for refined petroleum products also finished down sharply. Wholesale unleaded gasoline for October delivery fell 0.73 cent to finish at 43.98 cents a gallon. Contracts

for other months also lost ground.

Wholesale heating oil for October declined 0.58 cent to 42.88 cents a gallon while other contract months also declined. One gallon equals 3.8 litres.

Analysts said the market eroded steadily all week after reports that some OPEC members continued to ignore production quotas, increasing the world's oil supply and further weakening prices.

Wary

"The market continued to fall under pressure primarily on news that OPEC is continuing to over-produce," said Richard Redoglia, a trader with Merrill Lynch energy futures. "The fact that the market reacted to new contract lows is not a good sign."

Analysts said uncertainty over the outcome of this week's talks between OPEC secretary-general Subroto and Iran and Iraq also pushed the market down.

VW hands over engine plant to East German car industry

EAST BERLIN, Sept 3, (Reuters): Volkswagen AG, West Germany's largest carmaker, officially handed over an engine assembly plant to East Germany today in a deal that will allow East Berlin to put new engines into its cars.

The official ADN news agency said in a report from the southern industrial city of Karl-Marx-Stadt where the plant is located that VW and the East German state-run IFA Motor Vehicle Manufacturers agreed to work towards new co-operation agreements.

IFA's factory will produce under licence four-stroke 1.3-litre Otto engines, almost identical to those used in VW Golf and Polo models.

Under the deal, East Germany will deliver an unspecified number of finished engines to VW and use the rest to power a new

model of the Wartburg car. VW and IFA agreed on the arrangement in 1984.

The new Wartburg goes into serial production in September and will be on display for the first time at next week's Leipzig Trade Fair, according to East German press reports.

Although virtually unchanged externally, the car has been radically redesigned under the bonnet to accommodate the larger four-stroke engine.

Until now, the Wartburg and the smaller Trabant — both old-fashioned visually compared with Western cars — have run solely on two-stroke engines.

According to East German sources, there are plans to fit a VW Polo engine in the fibre-glass-bodied Trabant. But problems are apparently even greater than they were fitting the new engine into the Wartburg.

CURRENCY & BUSINESS

Kuwait's major role in OPEC praised

Production discipline vital, says Subroto

By Fathima Ahmed

OPEC Secretary-General Dr Subroto has urged member nations to impose "production discipline" by adhering to quotas and avoid a further glut in the oil market.

Subroto, who leaves for Dubai today on the last leg of his Gulf tour, said it was "very difficult to reduce the present quotas."

"We are not talking about dropping quotas, but are interested in determining prices, based on demand and supply of oil," he said.

Production

He expects a further slump in oil prices if production is above 17.5 million barrels per day (BPD).

"The current demand is about 17.5 million BPD, and if production is below that then prices will strengthen," he said.

This month's OPEC production was reportedly 20 million BPD, about 3.5 million BPD above the OPEC quota levels, and is said to be a key factor in depressing oil prices.

Mission
OPEC is passing through a critical phase and must work with "unity, cohesion and discipline" in the interests of all members, stressed Subroto. He said members should "choose the avenue that will (ensure) good, stable prices."

Subroto, who visited Tehran and Baghdad, said he was willing to revisit Iraq if there was a "justification" for such a visit. His recent mission to both countries reportedly failed due to Iraq's insistence on a higher quota.

Denying his mission was a failure, Subroto said, "Both Iran and Iraq are keen to bolster their economies. Both countries agree that this could be done through better oil prices." OPEC now has to work out a formula to reverse the fall in global oil prices, he said.

Oil prices are at one of their lowest levels for 1988 due to a world glut, with Middle East benchmark crude Dubai offered at \$12.42.

Parity

"We are in a situation (when members are) exceeding OPEC production quotas; the situation is fairly bad. Only if members work in cohesion, we can gradually recover the market position," he said.

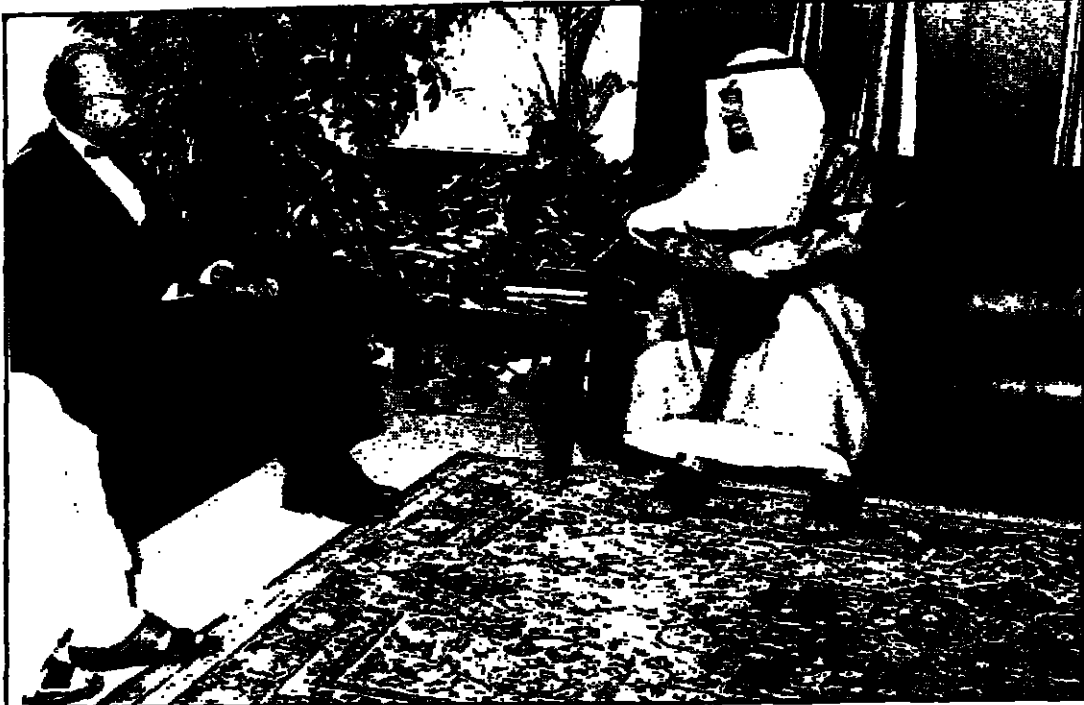
Over-supply, he added, would further slump the market.

Tehran Radio said Iran rejected the concept of quota parity with neighbouring Iraq during Subroto's visit. Subroto insisted that "the question of parity was a political decision and has become history in Iran; let's not talk about parity anymore."

Subroto said his trip to both countries was part of a "fact-finding mission" to identify problems facing OPEC and find solutions to prepare for the forthcoming ministerial meeting in Vienna, due to convene on Nov 21.

He identified the major problems facing the cartel as the Iran-Iraq quota, pricing, over-production and condensates.

Subroto admitted that "some (OPEC) members were producing" above the 15.06 million



HH the Amir pictured with Dr Subroto during yesterday's meeting.

BPD production ceiling, but declined to name the countries. It is widely believed that UAE, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are producing more than the quota levels.

Process
Subroto said OPEC is now auditing production levels of all members and is in the process of preparing a report.

"Only after our auditors compute the production levels, and we find discrepancies, we can say which members are violating (quotas)," he said.

He said he is approaching all the 13 member countries to "become aware of the difficulties facing them" and find possible solutions to be discussed at the Nov 21 meeting.

"We want to arrive at a body of consensus before the meeting," he emphasised.

Role
Dr Subroto, who arrived in Kuwait on Friday, held meetings with HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister as well as Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa.

Subroto said he believes that Kuwait "is playing a major, constructive and important" role in the OPEC organisation. Kuwait's leaders, he said, have assured him of "Kuwait's support to OPEC and the secretary general to find a suitable formula" to overcome the current problems facing the cartel.

He said this "phase is crucial" and will strengthen OPEC unity. With an end in sight to the Gulf war, he said he expects OPEC to "return to its original form, cohesion and unity."

Banking sector recaptures its lead

Kuwait trade volume declines

THE Alshah Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies last Wednesday averaged 43.17 points, a decrease of 1.27 points against 2.86 per cent the previous average, Alshah Economic Consultants reported yesterday.

Alshah Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 49.00 points down 0.63 point for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 44.93 million, with a daily average of 8.99 million shares, a 17 per cent decrease from the last week's 10.86 million shares.

Gulf-traded shares reached 23.31 million shares at a daily average of 4.66 million shares with a decrease of 0.17 per cent from last week's daily average of 5.22 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD16.012 million at a daily average of KD3.202 million, an increase of 19.5 per cent over last week's daily average of KD2.678 million.

The value of Gulf-traded shares was KD1.254 million at a daily average of KD0.251 million, a decrease of 22.5 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.324 million.

The market performance continued to be weak. This was reflected on the prices as well as the volume of trading. A varying re-arrangement of sectors and volumes, prompted to two opposite results — a positive one for the Kuwaiti market and a negative one for the Gulf market — due to the changes in the relative importance of sectors and companies.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector recaptured its lead in total trading at 64 per cent — 36.8 per cent last week.

The Commercial Bank led the lead at 21 per cent, followed by Burgan Bank at 19 per cent and Gulf Bank at 17 per cent.

As was the case for last week, the inclusion of Kuwait Projects Co in the Real Estate Sector instead of the Investment Sector, was also responsible this week for pushing up the trading volume of the Real Estate Sector to have the second rank at 16 per cent.

Kuwait Projects Co had the lead of sector's total trading at 76 per cent, followed by Kuwait Real Estate at 13 per cent and United Realty at 10 per cent. The Services Sector came third at 11 per cent in which Kuwait Commercial Markets Co. led at 38 per cent, followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 29 per cent and Kuwait Computers at 15 per cent.

For the Gulf Shares Market, the Financial Companies Sector had the lead of total trading at 82 per cent. Arabian General Investment (SHUAA) led in both sectors at 27 per cent followed by Bahrain & Middle East Bank at 22 per cent and Coast Investment and Development at 21 per cent.

The market continued to be in its third state — rise, stability, decline — anticipating an intervention or a political incident to resume its movement between the three stages.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 31/08/88	Wednesday 24/08/88	Change points
Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	109.57	113.63	-4.06
The Gulf Bank	35.63	37.29	-1.66
The Commercial Bank	27.87	29.18	-1.31
Al Ahli Bank	37.00	38.93	-1.93
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	34.20	35.96	-1.75
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	33.33	33.33	—
Burgan Bank	31.71	32.70	-0.99
Kuwait Finance House	78.61	80.12	-1.51
Sector Index	49.33	51.19	-1.86

Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	31.22	32.32	-1.10
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	28.18	29.90	-1.72
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	85.71	87.30	-1.59
IFA	73.53	75.00	-1.47
Commercial Facilities Sector Index	41.77	43.03	-1.26
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	39.68	39.68	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	28.46	28.46	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	51.28	51.28	—
Warba Insurance Co.	78.18	78.18	—
Sector Index	40.70	40.70	—
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	30.08	31.61	-1.53
United Realty	12.51	12.73	-0.22
National Real Estate	43.00	42.60	-0.40
Sector Index	22.11	22.62	-0.51
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	17.38	17.38	—
Refraction Indust.	93.34	91.14	2.20
Gulf Cables	110.04	111.07	-1.03
Kuwait Cement	92.44	94.22	-1.78
Sector Index	67.11	68.50	-1.39
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	198.72	196.56	2.16
Kuwait Cinema Co.	9.04	9.04	—
Public Warehousing Co.	84.85	88.89	-4.04
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	36.95	37.95	-1.00
Mobile Telephone Syst.	361.90	366.67	-4.76
Sector Index	67.11	68.50	-1.39
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	47.19	47.19	—
United Fisheries	10.91	10.91	—
Kuwait United Poultry	82.87	82.87	—
Kuwait Food Co.	72.41	74.71	-2.30
Sector Index	42.91	43.30	-0.39
Overall Index	43.17	44.44	-1.27

Gulf shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 31/08/88	Wednesday 24/08/88	Change points
Financial Companies			
First Gulf Bank	163.16	163.16	—
United Gulf Bank	34.48	34.48	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	93.79	95.17	-1.38
Bahrain M. East Bank	89.22	94.92	-5.69
Gulf Investments Co.	61.03	61.03	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	102.86	104.76	-1.90
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.	61.85	61.85	—
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)	53.79	54.55	-0.76
Sector Index	64.77	65.58	-0.81
Other Companies			
Gulf Cement (fully paid)	13.68	13.68	—
Sharjah Cement	10.50	10.50	—
Fujairah Cement	10.53	11.18	-0.66
Ras Al Khaima W. Cement	24.44	25.00	-0.56
Gulf Medical Projects	29.80	29.80	—
Sector Index	15.95	16.21	-0.26
Overall Index	49.00	49.64	-0.63

Base Period 31/12/1983.

AMF gives loan to South Yemen

DAMASCUS, Sept 3, (OPECNA): The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has extended a \$25 million loan to South Yemen to help support the country's balance of payments and budget deficit.

The agreement was signed by AMF chairman Abdullah Al Quwaiz and South Yemen Central Bank Governor Salim Al Ashouli.

The loan, which carries an interest rate of between 5.2 and 6.4 per cent, matures after 43 months. It brings to \$93 million the amount of loans extended to the country by the fund.

Economic talks

DAMASCUS, Sept 3, (KUNA): Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade, Mohammad Al Imadi today received the visiting Czech minister of foreign trade. The officials discussed economic relations between the two countries, joint trade, and ways to overcome obstacles hindering development of these relations.

UK market research group agrees £134.2 million from Pergamon

LONDON, Sept 3: Britain's biggest market research group, AGB Research, dispelled confusion over its immediate future yesterday by recommending an offer valuing it at £134.2m from Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Professional and Financial Services group, reports a London daily.

Pergamon's move usurps an earlier restructuring plan involving MAI, the advertising group, and publishers EMAP, which AGB had intended to put to its shareholders at an extraordinary meeting yesterday.

Plan
MAI — which under the original plan would have gained 31 per cent of AGB — yesterday sold its existing 9 per cent stake to Pergamon at 22 1/2 pence, and pledged to accept the offer in respect of shares it is due as a partner in AGB's abandoned television research project in America.

Pergamon's offer is conditional on AGB shareholders voting down a proposed £22m disposal to EMAP at a meeting now adjourned until next month. However Pergamon is AGB's largest shareholder with about 26.6 per cent after further market purchases yesterday, and has irrevocable undertakings in respect of 2.5 per cent.

AGB share closed 3p higher at 217p last night against Pergamon's offer of 2.58 units of new convertible loan stock, worth 236.8p per share, with a cash alternative of 220p.

AGB shares stood at 187p on the eve of a surprise bid approach last week from Pergamon, which then held 14.9 per cent.

"This is the second largest information business of its kind in the world," Sir Bernard Audley, chairman of AGB said yesterday. "For such an opportunity nothing is too high a price,

but what we lacked was financial muscle."

"We will be introducing market research into the Pergamon group, but they're in business publishing and technical documentation which sits easily with some of our activities."

AGB yesterday reiterated its estimate that profits before tax will not be less than £10.6m for the year ended April, but in view of yesterday's offer, is expected to delay its preliminary results until next month.

If Pergamon's offer for AGB is successful, the enlarged group would be called Pergamon AGB with Sir Bernard Audley as chairman. Pergamon director Kevin Maxwell as deputy executive chairman and John Napier, chief executive of AGB, as group managing director.

The enlarged group will also inherit the costs of AGB's withdrawal from television research in the United States.

OPEC Fund gives aid to Sudan

VIENNA, Sept 3, (OPECNA): The OPEC Fund for International Development is to extend two grants totalling \$100,000 to Sudan in the aftermath of torrential rains and floods which destroyed towns and villages in the country.

The fund, which does not normally engage in emergency relief work, is providing the assistance to help in the purchase of medicines and water tanks.

The fund said the grants, "a gesture of solidarity", will be channelled through the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO).

OPEC Fund director-general Dr Seyyid Abdulaziz expressed deep sympathy, on behalf of the fund and its governing board, with Prime Minister Al Sadiq Al Mahdi and the government and people of Sudan.

Several OPEC Fund member states, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Nigeria, have already extended bilateral assistance to Sudan.

New oil discovery

LUANDA, Sept 3, (OPECNA): Angola's national oil company, Sonagol, has announced the discovery of a new well situated 30 km offshore.

The find, known as "Golungo One" and located in Bloc-3 of the offshore concession, tested at 2,390 BPD of oil and from a depth of 39 metres.

The company said that exploration studies were being carried out to determine the extent of the find.

Bloc-3 is operated by Elf Aquitaine under a contract signed with Sonagol.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Notices

Tender No. MEW/22/41/87/88
Requirements: Supply of steam generators & auxiliaries.

The CTC announces that the closing date of the above tender is postponed from Tuesday, 13.9.88 to Tuesday 4.10.88.

Contractors already obtained the above tender documents are requested to collect the relevant addendum No. 4.

Tender No. MEW/22/41/87/88
Requirements: Supply & installation of turbine generators & auxiliaries.

The CTC announces that the closing date of the above tender is postponed from Tuesday, 13.9.88 to Tuesday 4.10.88.

Contractors already obtained the above tender documents are requested to collect the relevant addendum No. 4.

Tender No. N 212/8
Requirements: Supply of heat exchanger (Breg Lock).

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette (Al Kuwait Al Yom) Issue No. 1781 dated 17.7.88, the CTC hereby agrees to include M/s Abdul Aziz Yusuf Al Essa agent of Villa & Bonaldi in the list of companies qualified to participate in the above tender.

Tender No. MEW/22/10/88/89
Requirements: Rent of various vehicles.

Contractors already obtained the above tender documents are requested to collect the relevant addendum No. 1.

Tender No. PTT/8716/88/89
Requirements: Supply, installation & maintenance of cables & light fibre appliances.

The CTC announces that the closing date of the above tender is postponed from Tuesday, 11.9.88 to Tuesday, 11.10.88.

Contractors already obtained the above tender documents are requested to collect the relevant addendum No. 1.

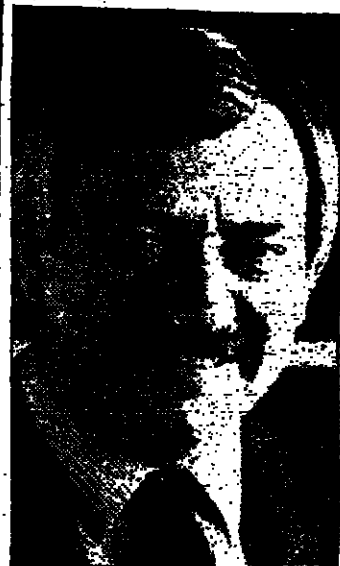
KUWAIT						
BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-NATIONAL BANK	1,080	1,080	1,080	1,070	360000	37
-GULF BANK	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.425	670000	22
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.325	0.320	0.325	0.315	290000	16
-ABLI BANK	0.390	0.385	0.390	0.385	250000	14
-K.R.E.B.	0.390	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.R.E.B.	0.420	0.420	0.425	0.420	920140	6
-BURGAN BANK	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.315	660000	33
-K.F.HOUSE	0.530	0.520	0.520	0.520	205000	18
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
-KMT INV. CO.	0.170	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.I.I.C.	0.164	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-COM.FACILITIES	0.500	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-AMLIAN INV.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-I.F.A.	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	80000	2
-INV. PEARL KMT	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	60000	3
INSURANCE SECTOR						
-KMT INSURANCE	0.730	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-GULF INSURANCE	0.370	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-AMLIA INS. CO.	0.580	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-HABIA INS. CO.	0.455	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
-KMT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.240	0.236	0.236	0.236	256420	2
-UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	100000	4
-NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.216	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-SALAHIAN R.E.	0.080	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KMT PROJECTS	0.091	0.092	0.092	0.091	1200000	18
-KMT R.E.I.COM	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
-NAT IND. CO.	0.560	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KMT M.P. IND.	0.310	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KMT CEMENT CO.	0.255	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-REF. IND. CO.	0.415	0.425	0.425	0.425	10000	1
-N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-GULF CABLE	1.060	1.070	1.070	1.070	5000	1
-K.P.H. IND. CO.	0.222	0.208	0.208	0.208	20000	1
-COM.MARINE	0.350	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.SR.REP.CO.	0.046	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
SERVICES SECTOR						
-OVERLAND TRANS	0.089	0.090	0.090	0.090	8000	1
-K.M.C. CO.	0.190	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KMT HOTELS CO.	0.170	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-P.MAREHOUTING	0.170	0.168	0.170	0.168	140000	6
-COM.MKT.CHMX.	0.019	0.018	0.019	0.018	160000	2
-MOBILE TELE.	0.375	0.380	0.380	0.375	140000	5
-KMT COMPUTER	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.184	120000	3
FOOD SECTOR						
-LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.232	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-UNTD FISHERIES	0.154	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-UNTD POULTRY	0.226	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KMT FOODS	0.315	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-AGRI.FOOD PRO.	0.150	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NON-KUT SECTOR						
-BNH.INTER.BK	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	120000	3
-BNH.N.EAST.BK	0.047	0.047	0.047	046	320000	4
-UNTD.GULF BK	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-COAST INVEST.	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.106	160000	5
-A.G.G.INV.CORP	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	1200000	6
-FIRST.GULF BK	0.620	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-B.K.I.G.	0.080	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE						
COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
-PEARL INV.CO.	0.098	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-GULF INV.CO.	0.041	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-GULF INTL INS	0.009	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-ARAB INT.CO.	0.055	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-SHARAH INV.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-GULF UNION INS	0.070	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.027	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
C-R.K.WHITE CRMT	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	880000	6
D-ARAB CHART	0.007	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
E-FUJAIRAH CENT	0.008	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
F-SHARJAH CENT	0.010	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
G-GULF CEMENT	0.016	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
H-UNION QATARIN	0.022	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

DENMARK IN KUWAIT

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

Kuwait-Danish relations cover a broad spectra

Scope for new contacts



H.E. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark.

The relations between the Kingdom of Denmark and the nations on the Arab Peninsula have deep historical roots dating back to the visit to Arabia in 1761-63 of a Danish scientific expedition which was received with much hospitality by the rulers of that period.

In recent years the excellent relations between the Kingdom of Denmark and the State of Kuwait, have been developed and strengthened in many fields and now cover a broad spectra of mutual interests.

Through a great number of visits by officials and individual businessmen we have developed a very close co-operation and excellent trade relations between our countries.

The Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Gulf Co-operation Council states of the Gulf confirms the political will of our respective countries and regions to strengthen our co-operation and establishes the framework for further development of our relations, including liberalization and intensification of trade relations.

With this in mind I find it very gratifying that it has been possible with the assistance of the authorities in the host countries to arrange the visit of a Danish trade mission in connection with my official visit to Kuwait.

It is my sincere hope that the visit to Kuwait of the Danish trade mission may lead to many new and fruitful contacts and strengthen the mutually beneficial trade relations between our countries.

Message of H.E. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark.

IF Danes today have a higher standard of living than most other countries, they owe it to a way of economic life that works effectively and usually has managed to adjust itself to fluctuating conditions.

Industry: Denmark has a reputation for being among the world's foremost agricultural countries, and this is still so, but over the past decades industry has overtaken agriculture with respect to exports.

It is characteristic of Danish industry to be overwhelmingly composed of smaller and medium-sized companies with a strong ability to adapt to market demands and with a flair for strict product-quality control.

Because Denmark is so small, lacking in raw materials, it has been obliged to turn to the sea for its food. On the west coast, where the human factor plays a big role in production. To name just a few examples, Denmark is strong in the production and export of furniture, handicrafts, medical goods, automatic cooling and heating devices, and sensitive measuring instruments.

Another characteristic of Danish industry is that it has been able to find niches in world markets, where a strong presence has been created. Children throughout the world play with small bricks from Lego, while within the stereo and television sector, Bang & Olufsen's flair for sublime design has created a line of products distinctive enough to be displayed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The most notable exception to what was earlier said about the size of Danish industrial concerns is Danfoss, which employs 12,000 and primarily manufactures automatic cooling and heating devices.

Agriculture: The structure of Danish agriculture has undergone an almost revolutionary transformation within the last generation. While just 20 to 30 years ago there were more than 200,000 farms, the figure today, after mergers and closures, has shrunk to just about 100,000 and only six per cent of the population is employed in agriculture, compared with 20 per cent previously. But on the contrary the most stringent rationalisation methods have ensured a production bigger than ever before.

The success of Danish farming to a large extent derives from the fact that its practitioners in every respect are well-informed and well-trained in their jobs, thanks preferably to a number of agricultural colleges. It has also proved of

What the Danes do for a living



Danish dairy products are exported to 125 countries:

great importance that farmers from an early stage formed their own co-operative societies in dairy produce, slaughter-houses and other communal business ventures, as well as in the field of exports.

Fisheries: Denmark is the country with the largest fish catches in the EEC. Small and larger fishing harbours dot the Danish coast at short intervals, and 3,300 boats of many different sizes, manned by 10,000 fishermen, bring their catches home from the North Sea, the Kattegat, the Baltic, and via the largest vessels from the North Atlantic.

Even if Danes are big fish-eaters, 90 per cent of the catch is exported. Fresh Danish fish for eating is brought to the big European cities from day to day, but the bulk is processed by the fisheries industry into frozen or canned fish of a wide variety. Fishing also forms an important source of income for both Greenland and the Faroes — for the latter to an overwhelming extent.

Shipping: The Danish merchant fleet's current 600 vessels bring their income home from the world's oceans in sharp competition with the other seafaring nations. The ships today are fewer in number than some years ago, but by contrast more advanced, and to a large degree comprised of modern container-ships and tankers. The A.P. Moller/Maersk Group the dominant factor among Danish shipping companies, and with its more than 100 vessels one of the largest shipping groups in the world.

Danish ship officers get to know the ropes on the training vessel "Danmark", which from

its numerous voyages is well known in ports on both sides of the Atlantic.

Air traffic: Denmark, together with Sweden and Norway, is part owner in the carrier Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), which flies throughout Europe, to the United States and large parts of the rest of the world. Certain Danish airlines — Sterling Airways, Conair and Maersk Air — operate mostly charter flights with Scandinavian tourists heading south on holiday. A dozen domestic flight routes via Danair connect Copenhagen with Funen and Jutland, with flying times between the capital and the rest of the country normally not exceeding 30-45 minutes.

Copenhagen's airport lies on the outskirts of the city, close to the Sound and just 10 km from the centre. It is Europe's fifth-largest airport and is used by all the large international airlines.

International trade: In the very old days, the Danish state operated trading stations in Africa and India, and Danish ships returned home with exotic goods from the Far East. Also today a lively trading activity is displayed by the Danish side in many parts of the world. Best known in this connection is The East Asiatic Company, which was founded in 1857 and today runs trading, production and shipping operations on a global basis with 122 subsidiaries, 34 associate companies and with altogether some 30,000 employed throughout the world.

Energy: Industries and households in Denmark by tradition have covered their energy requirements through imports of coal and oil, and nobody would have dared to dream that Denmark one day would be in a position to pump ashore oil and gas from the North Sea. But in 1966, Danish Underground Consortium, which had been established by shipping company A.P. Moller in co-operation with several foreign oil companies, made its first find a couple of hundred kilometres off the Danish coast, and drilling platforms were raised. The first oil came ashore in 1972, and in 1984, gas began to stream in from the North Sea and was distributed via a nationwide pipeline network. Production of both North Sea oil and gas is increasing, and it is expected that within a few years Denmark will be 50 per cent self-sufficient in oil and 100 per cent in gas.

Indelible stamp of Denmark on Kuwait's environment, culture

By Jadranka Porter

DENMARK, a small Scandinavian nation, has left indelible marks on Kuwait's environment and culture.

It was Danish architects who designed the National Assembly building, and the Kuwait Towers, considered the country's most outstanding landmark.

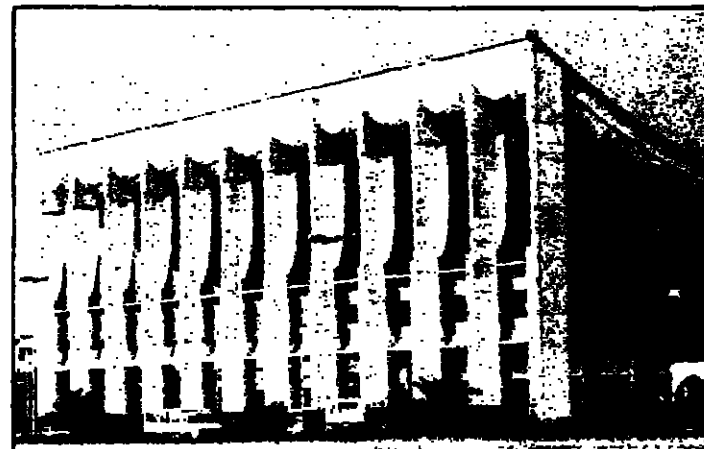
Danish computer experts are helping with the Public Authority Civil Identification project.

A Danish company has helped set up Kuwait's dairy products industry and Danish archaeologists began excavations in the 1950s in Failaka where they uncovered ancient settlements.

The Danes are now hoping to inject new life into Kuwaiti-Danish relations after a gradual decline in their exports and presence in Kuwait during the war years.

The current visit to Kuwait by a 30-member Danish trade mission headed by Denmark's Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen is expected to revive Kuwaitis' interest in Danish products and services.

Although the visit was planned back in February when prospects for peace in the Gulf seemed remote,



Kuwait's National Assembly building: designed by a Danish architect

the timing of the talks turned out perfect, Denmark's Ambassador to Kuwait Dan Nielsen said.

Kuwait and Denmark are poised to take part in the reconstruction projects in post-war Iraq and Iran.

Nielsen said he believes that Kuwaiti and Danish businessmen can combine efforts and bid jointly for projects in Iraq and Iran.

Nielsen would like to see an increase in exports of Danish goods, which last year stood at KD 13 million, and services to Kuwait. He is convinced that in view of Denmark's record such expectations are realistic.

Danish merchant vessels and tankers have been plying the Gulf waters for decades. Its medical experts are improving dental health

care in Kuwait and agricultural specialists are helping Kuwaiti farmers in Wafr. Danish contractors have been in the local market since the 1950s.

But the relationship is not one-sided.

Excellent

Denmark, which is 50 per cent self-sufficient in oil requirements, imports Kuwait's petroleum products. The Kuwait Petroleum Corp. runs a refinery and a network of 650 petrol stations in the Scandinavian country.

One in every five Danish drivers uses Kuwaiti-owned service stations, Nielsen said.

On a broader scale, Denmark, a NATO and European Economic Community member, has supported peace efforts in

the Gulf war.

Fifteen of its officers are among the United Nations peace-keeping force monitoring the ceasefire along the Iraq-Iran border.

Being a maritime state, Denmark has vehemently supported freedom of navigation for neutral ships in the Gulf's international waters where some of its vessels were attacked.

Copenhagen has also taken part in EEC-GCC negotiations. Both groups are working towards a comprehensive trade agreement. An agreement specifying areas and ways of co-operation was signed last June.

But the final trade agreement seems still a long way off with the thorny issue being the GCC refined petroleum exports. They are in direct competition with similar products from some of the EEC countries.

Nielsen said that the GCC countries are given preferential treatment because no customs duty is levied on their petrochemical exports.

But the issue of what kind of preferential treatment the EEC members can expect in the Gulf has still not been resolved. The EEC members seek to increase their exports to the Gulf states and to negotiate more favourable terms.



Dan Nielsen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark.

Ellemann-Jensen recently described Denmark's relations with the Gulf states as excellent, saying that they now cover a broad spectrum of mutual interests.

Danish businessmen accompanying the foreign minister and representatives of the Federation of Danish Industries and the Danish Chamber of Commerce hope to widen the scope of co-operation.

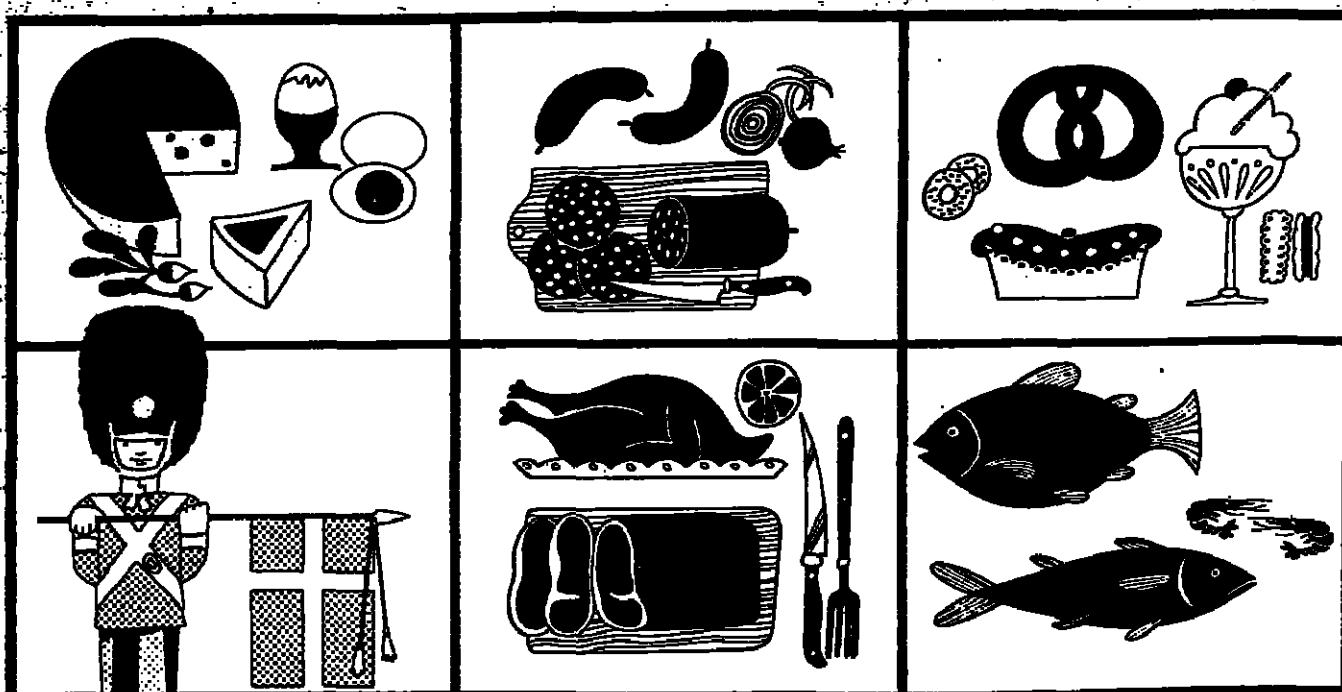
The businessmen are top experts in construction, agriculture and food industries, banking, pharmaceuticals, water desalination, petroleum engineering and marine contracting.

They will meet their Kuwaiti counterparts and hold talks at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the Kuwait Petroleum Corp. and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Ellemann-Jensen will address the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industries on the subject of Kuwaiti-Danish relations.

IT'S GOOD IT'S FROM DENMARK

DANISH FOOD Festival



at THE SULTAN CENTER
Salmiya and Salwa
3-5 September 1988

In cooperation with

AU Danish Agricultural Marketing Board

THE SULTAN CENTER

SALMIYA-5719620 SALWA-5636790

SAMPLING HOURS
6:00 PM-10:00 PM

Geophysical features: Highest point 173 metres above sea level (Yding Skovhøj) average height above sea level about 30 metres. Principal soil type moraine clay.

Climate: Average temperature (the whole year round): 7.9°C, warmest month 16.6°C (July), coldest month -4°C (February).

Average rainfall (the whole year round) 662mm Wettest month 80 mm (August), driest month 33 mm (February).

The Kingdom of Denmark also comprises the North Atlantic Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Denmark is the country with the largest fish catches in the EEC. 90 per cent of the catch is exported.

NOT all Danes are called Jensen, Nielsen or Hansen but many are. Those with the surname Jensen number 7.7 per cent, those with Nielsen 7.3 per cent and Hansen 6.2 per cent. These are followed by Pedersen, Andersen, Christensen, Larsen and Sørensen, and as far down as 22nd place comes the first surname without a -sen. In fact, two-thirds of Denmark's population bear a surname ending in -sen, so let us therefore give the typical Dane the name of Jensen.

Some 52,000 new Danes came into the world in 1985. A declining birthrate has posed several problems in recent years, but it appears to be improving now, even if it is not expected ever again to approach anywhere near the level of 96,000 born in the last year of the German occupation, when Danes were exhorted in no uncertain terms to amuse themselves behind closed doors.

Live

Years ago most new Danes saw the first light of day in their parents' home. Nowadays almost all births take place in hospitals, and it has become increasingly common for the father to be present at the birth.

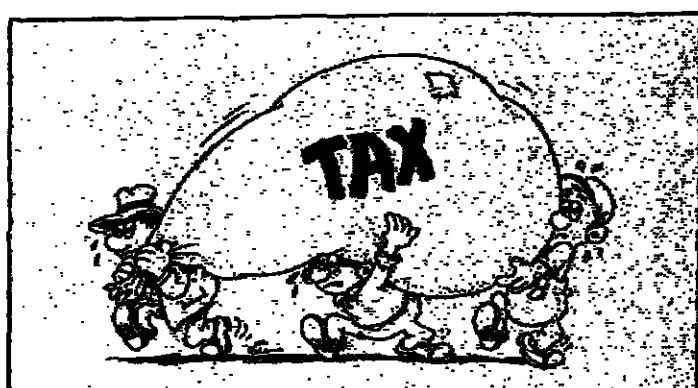
If it is a little boy coming into the world, he can if no deadly illness strikes, expect to live for 71 years, and if it is a girl, she can look forward to reaching the age of 77. Those are the figures for the Danes' average life expectancy.

Stable

Someone has yet to explain why girls in general are blessed with an extra span of life. But proof of the circumstances is to be found in the fact that among the 311 Danes to reach over the age of 100 in 1985, 233 were female and only 78 male.

The overwhelming majority will be automatically enrolled in the state-supported National Church of Denmark, which is Evangelical Lutheran. But even if statistics record that 92 per cent of the population are members of the National Church, only around 4-5 per cent are found occupying church pews on a normal Sunday. Christmas Eve is the sole occasion, when priests can gaze out over a full church. Despite the fact that the Danish Jensens are not devout church-goers, most see to it that their children are baptised in church and confirmed on rea-

Glimpses of everyday life in Denmark



Taxes and duties are high.

ching the age of 14.

The next rung of life's ladder is marriage, and every year around 50,000 Danes tie the nuptial knot, often after having spent some time living together in order to ensure some kind of guarantee for a stable marriage. A wedding can take place in different ways. In about half of the cases, the bride and bridegroom go to the local town hall in their everyday clothes to be wed by the mayor or his deputy, but it can also take place in style at church, where the bridegroom dons morning coat and the bride regales herself in white with a four-to-five metre-long train borne by bridesmaid and pages.

Problem

It has never been ascertained, which of these types of wedding lends itself best to an enduring marriage, but the truth of the matter is that each year records half as many divorces as weddings. Although many Mr and Mrs Jensens do succeed in celebrating their silver wedding after 25 years of marriage and some even reach their gold wedding after having stuck together for 50 years.

A special phenomenon is the so-called "paperless marriage," where man and woman live together without being formally married yet

recognised by their peers as a married couple. More than 100,000 couples live in this manner with children born out of this arrangement or from a previous relationship.

When a young couple marry, finding a place to live can pose a big problem. The first years together invariably are spent in an apartment, but after a time and particularly when children arrive, many move into their own house — usually composed of three to four rooms with a small garden.

Tens of thousands of these neat one-family houses have sprung up on the outskirts of all Danish towns in the past 25 years, and out of all the families with children nearly 60 per cent live in such a house.

As in other countries of the Western world, it is quite commonplace in Denmark for both spouses to work away from home, and it goes as a rule that the work-load associated with cooking, childcare and cleaning has to be shared, though it goes without saying that the male's interest in household chores is not always as large as the female would like it to be. Young families generally have one or two children, who are looked after in public day care centres, such as nurseries and kindergarten's, while the parents are at work.

An eight-hour working day is the general rule, with Saturdays and Sundays free. Recreation pursuits take many forms — hobbies, reading of books and newspapers and joint activities with other families and friends — but it is television that takes an increasing chunk out of people's leisure time. According to one trustworthy statistic, around 40 per cent of Danes' freetime is spent glued to the TV-screen and that despite the fact that Danish state-run television hitherto has been limited to one channel.

Vacation

An annual five-week vacation with full pay is the established practice on the Danish labour market. Some spend their holidays at home or at summer cottages by the beach. But Danes are unusual travelers at holidaytime, flying south in flocks to preferred destinations like Majorca, southern Spain and the Canary Islands. It may be hard to grasp, but last year as many as some 700,000 character trips were sold to the five-million-strong Danes, of whom some head south for the sun more than once a year.

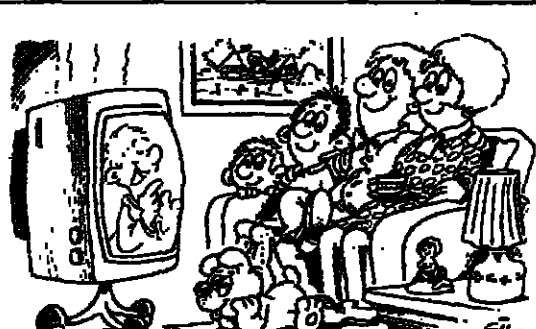
Like people in many other countries, most Danes feel that at least one car is indispensable for the family, and 1.6 million cars are to be found in Denmark today, equivalent to one for every three Danes. These are astounding figures when one bears in mind that every time a Dane buys a new car formidable state excise and duties on car sales force the purchaser to pay three times the car's actual price.

Taxes and duties are extremely high in the rule, but most manage to bite the bullet with a healthy dose of black humour and seldom miss an opportunity to enjoy the bright side of life such as on family occasions, when birthdays, weddings, confirmations or other events are celebrated.

The English maxim of "my home is my castle" is usually not found in Denmark, where most families happily open their doors to friends and acquaintances, offering guests the best one has, thus creating that special Danish inclination for comfort called hygge — an all-embracing feeling of warmth and wellbeing, which freely extends when the opportunity presents itself, to foreigners, who rarely will find it difficult to get into the mood.



Couples share household chores.



A lot of leisure hours are spent in front of the television.

Designed by Danes

The International Orientation of Danish Architects has secured many assignments abroad. Among the results are some of the world's best-known contemporary buildings.

DANISH architecture has always been open and receptive to outside influence. However, since Danish architects have given international trends a Danish interpretation, this openness has not deprived Danish buildings of their distinctive character. At the same time, their international orientation has secured many assignments for Danish architects abroad. Among the results are some of the world's best known contemporary buildings.

In Kuwait, Jørn Utzon was the architect for the National Assembly building overlooking the Arabian Gulf. The large entrance hall makes full use of the splendid view over the Gulf and of the chance to catch a refreshing breeze from the sea. The style of the building is original and distinct, making use of pre-fabricated concrete elements. Jørn Utzon was also the architect for the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

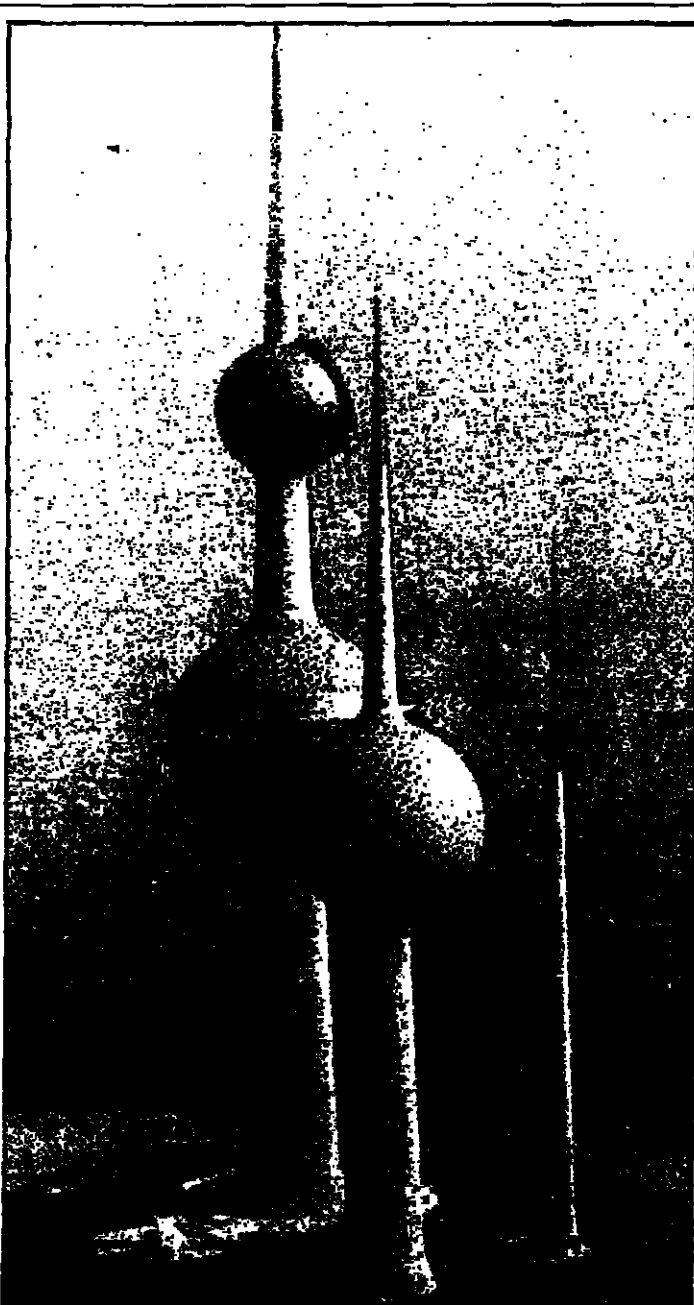
Another Danish architect Malene Bjørn was responsible for the Kuwait Towers. This unusual structure combining futuristic and Islamic elements is now the symbol of modern Kuwait.

In Iraq, Skaarup & Jespersen have produced a town plan for a whole district of Baghdad adjoining the River Tigris. An area of old houses will be completely replaced by three storey town houses to produce a new river front for the capital. The houses will have their own solar panels to supply power for all air-conditioning.

The new National Bank of Iraq building in Baghdad was designed by Dissing & Wetling. The firm of Knud Holscher & Svend Axelsson is responsible for the design of a museum in Bahrain.

Danish architects have also carried out several large and important projects in Saudi Arabia. The best known is the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Riyadh. Henning Larsen was awarded the project, having won an international competition.

Taking the climate very much into technical consideration, the architecture was influenced by Islamic building traditions. The representative role of the building is recognised in a number of beautifully designed and equipped meeting and reception rooms.



Symbol of modern Kuwait: the Kuwait Towers was designed by Danish architect Malene Bjørn




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DENMARK: AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1988

Hempel: poised to expand in Kuwait

IN 1966, the first Hempel Factory in the Middle East was established in Kuwait. Technological and marketing agreements with J.C. Hempel Holding Ltd., in Denmark have helped to establish Hempel Kuwait as the leading supplier and innovator in the highly specialised areas of marine, industrial, building and yacht paints.

Export markets have been set up in Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq. And Hempel Kuwait have continued to supply Iraq right through the recent war and are now preparing for the gradual return to its former business levels by taking part in the Baghdad International Fair in November 1988.

Hempel Kuwait's expansion within its home and export markets will be based on four main product categories:

Hempel's anti-corrosive coatings — Hempalin, Hempapax, Hempadur, Galvostil and many more varieties which have been specifically developed to meet the needs of the industrial, offshore, and marine markets.

Tropaline, a complete range of house paints intended for use by the building sector.

Hempel's Yacht paints which offer yachtsmen a wide variety of antifouling, enamel, varnishes and related nautical products and

Hempel's Specialty products which include dipping paints, drum paints, stoving enamels, vehicle enamels, fire-retardant paints, sealants and heavy-duty coatings.

The present make-up of the company is: Mr. Saud Abdulaziz Al Rashed as Chairman; H.E. Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Mr. Saad Abdulaziz Al Rashed, Late Mr. J.C. Hempel, Consul Borge Hansen, on the Board of Directors and Mr. Jørn H. Lillelund as the General Manager and Regional Director.



The SAS hotel is a small enclave of Scandinavian life in Kuwait.



Guests enjoy a pool-side barbecue.

A touch of Danish cool in Kuwait

By Jadranka Porter

THE Kuwait SAS hotel is a small enclave of Scandinavian life in a country which does not lend itself easily to adaptations of a kind that would evoke images of fresh water lakes and cool forests.

Yet, even with limited means at their disposal the eight-year-old hotel manages to retain its Scandinavian identity. This is noticeable primarily in the hotel's decoration and service. It was by design that marble, glass and Scandinavian pinewood have been used to decorate the lobby and rooms.

The pastel colour scheme was selected to emphasize the atmosphere of cool comfort not only reminiscent of Nordic countries but in contrast to the outside heat, said the general manager, Werner Kuendig.

Location

This design is most consistently applied in the so-called Royal Club, the rooms on the third floor where guests have at their disposal a special lounge where they can have breakfast or receive visitors in relative privacy.

This kind of service is in keeping with the chain's international reputation, said

Kuendig.

What distinguishes the Kuwait SAS hotel is its location on the beach, and its comparatively small size allowing personalised service, Steinar Bergvoll, director of sales said.

"We are investing a lot of energy into staff training in an effort to maintain our reputation as a small but friendly hotel," said Kuendig.

Like other hotels in Kuwait the SAS has recorded a drop in business over the past few years — an unwelcome side-effect of the Gulf war. The hotel's owners and management took a calculated risk and expanded

during the war years.

In 1981 the hotel opened the Al Boom, a restaurant situated on a dhow moored just outside the hotel. In 1983 the Peacock restaurant opened, soon becoming one of the finest Chinese restaurants in the country.

The SAS club, a large sports and recreation facility, was opened in 1986. In the same year the Tent, a large banqueting hall, was installed and 50 bungalows for long-staying guests were added to the hotel's facilities.

The new facilities have boosted the flagging business and helped the hotel offset losses incurred by low occupancy. "It helped us that people in Kuwait have become more health conscious," said Kuendig. The SAS club's membership is approximately 1800.

The SAS management believes that with the ceasefire in the Gulf war now in effect business in the Gulf states will pick up immediately. "Businessmen who want a slice of the action will have to act fast or else they will be losers," says Bergvoll.

The hotel is anxious to increase its occupancy rate but the management does not cherish dreams of a windfall.

"We are hoping to bring the occupancy rate to normal," said Kuendig. In the hotelier's jargon this means much closer to 100 per cent than has been the case with Kuwait's hotels for years.



The Al Boom restaurant as seen from the swimming pool of the SAS hotel in Kuwait.

KDCE: leading supplier for industry

THE Kuwait Danish Cleaning Equipment Co. (KDCE) has served Kuwait's market since 1983, although the Nilfisk vacuum cleaners for domestic and industrial use, which the company distributes have been in the country since the early 1970s.

All of Kuwait's hotels use Nilfisk machines, as do many hospitals, factories, schools, public sector offices and private homes.

Nilfisk machines first appeared in Kuwait in the 1970s. As sales increased, the Danish manufacturer set up a joint venture with a local company, Marafie and Sons, in 1983.

The partnership was so successful that KDCE became a Middle East centre for distribution of Nilfisk machines to Jordan, Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar and Oman.

Along with cleaning machines, the company distributes paper wipe materials, chemicals and other types of professional cleaning equipment.



The Kuwait Danish Cleaning Equipment Co. has served Kuwait's market since 1983.

Nilfisk vacuum cleaners were first produced in 1910. Today, the company is the largest manufacturer of industrial vacuum cleaners in the world. The cleaners are sold through a network of subsidiaries around the globe.

K.E.W. high pressure water cleaners for cold water and steam are produced by K.E.W. Industrial Ltd of Denmark. The company, established in 1971, is the second largest manufacturer of pressure cleaners in the world.

Quality

The outstanding design and quality of Nilfisk machines have made KDCE a leading supplier in the industrial sector. It is the factories and other

industrial establishments that the company looks to with hopes for higher sales.

"With an upsurge in trade and manufacturing, factories may find it worthwhile to invest in new equipment," said KDCE general manager Niels Mogensen.

During the recession, when business establishments were reluctant to buy new machines, the company's service and maintenance department thrived, adding to the company's reputation.

"There are companies here which bought our equipment 10 years ago and these machines still work well," Mogensen said.

J.P.

Information technology for Kuwait

By Jadranka Porter

FOUR Danish companies are helping Kuwait introduce modern information technology in the public sector.

They are two Danish public companies, the government-run computer centre Datacenter and Danish municipalities' computer centre Kommunedata. And private sector establishments, Rambødt and Hannemann, and DZ

Security.

All four are in partnership with Kuwait's Marafie & Sons Company.

Kuwait has made great strides in the development of services such as schools, tele-

phones, electricity, infrastructure and social security, says Carsten Buus, the Middle East sales director of the joint venture firm. But this development goes hand-in-hand with modern information technology, Buus said.

"Kuwait has come a long way in establishing a modern public administration. In our experience this development calls for an efficient information system to facilitate smooth economic and physical planning," said Buus.

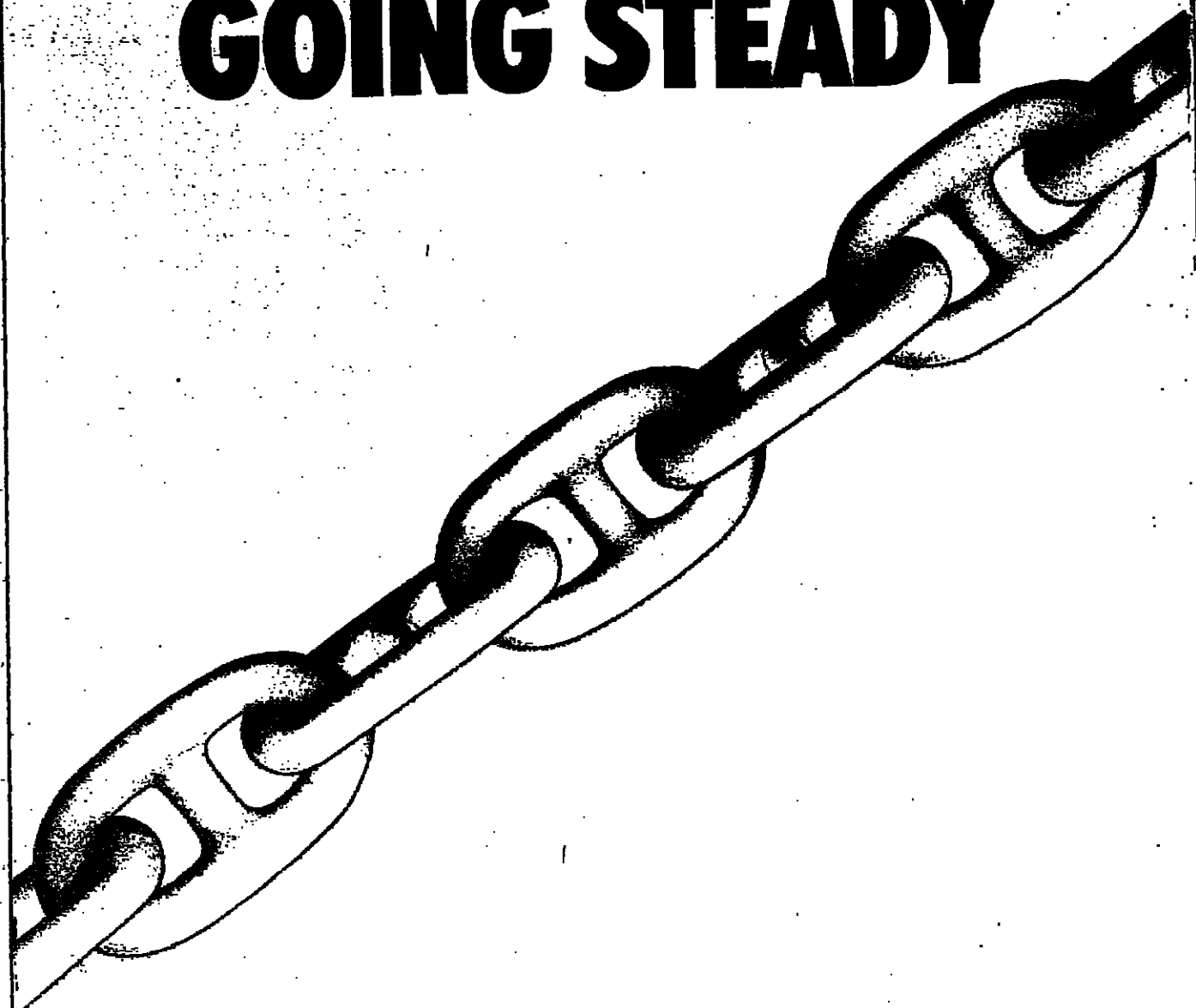
He pointed out that people's expectations of the public service are greater now than ever before and these could be met with the help of modern information technology.

The four Danish companies, which have vast experience in public sector data processing systems in Denmark and other countries, are helping Kuwait streamline its data processing system. They specialise in information planning, systems development, administration streamlining and modernisation, training and education, hardware and software evaluation and tender preparation.

Their operation is not influenced by special interest groups such as hardware manufacturers and vendors. The four companies employ 4,000 workers.

Buus praised Kuwait's determination to apply modern information technology.

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8 Connaught Place, Central
Hong Kong
Tel: +852 5 8101871

Provinsbanken A/S
New York Branch
499 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022
Tel: +1 212 355 2424

Provinsbanken International
(Luxembourg) S.A.
25A, Boulevard Royal, L-2449 Luxembourg
P.O. Box 173, L-2011 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 46 12 75

Provinsbanken A/S
Representative Office
Parkhouse
16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JW
Tel: +44 1 374 0654



Dairy cattle hold a prominent position in Danish livestock production with a current population of approximately one million cows.

Livestock — the hard core of Danish agricultural production

SOME 90 per cent of the average Danish farmer's income is derived from livestock production, direct sales resulting from plant production accounting for the remaining 10 per cent. This is because most of the plant production is fed to the livestock.

Dairy cattle hold a prominent position in Danish livestock production with a current population of approximately 1 million cows. Red Danish Dairy Breed and Danish Black and White Frisian make up 21 and 52 per cent respectively of the national herd. Both breeds are equally well-suited for milk and beef production. Jersey cattle come next in importance accounting for 16 per cent of the national herd. Special beef herds such as Hereford and Charolais (2 per cent) along with other breeds and cross-breeds make up the remainder.

Milk is collected by refrigerated tank-trailers for processing at new, predominantly farmer-controlled, co-operative, regional dairies. The bulk of milk production is used for butter and cheese-making as well as for a number of special products. Denmark is a major exporter of butter — with the United Kingdom as its biggest customer. As regards cheese exports, Denmark is 4th in the world league, Iran and West Germany being the most major importers.

During the summer season the predominant fodder crop is grass; during the winter silage fodder roots. Considerable quantities of protein foodstuffs are also fed to the animals.

In the good old days every respectable Danish farmer would have his own fowl run, but in recent years it has proved increasingly difficult to export eggs and poultry profitably.

Egg and poultry production has consequently been reduced and is now geared mainly to the home market. A number of farmers specialise, however, in the production of broilers for export.

Ever increasing mechanisation has inevitably led to the number of horses rapidly declining. They total 42,000 today, a mere 20 per cent of the 1960 stock. Three quarters of these horses are kept for pleasure.

The 60,000 sheep on Danish farms are mainly kept for meat production.

With an annual production of 39 million mink skins from 2,500 farms, Denmark is one of the three largest mink producers in the world. There is also a number of chinchilla and blue fox skin producers. The five annual Copenhagen fur auctions, through which 90 per cent of Danish produced furs are exported, are among the most internationally esteemed.

Last, but not least Danish agriculture is a major supplier of raw materials for the manufacture of foodstuffs such as beer, aquavit, fruit wine and sugar as well as a number of industrial items such as paint, glue, soap, textiles, insulin, leather etc.

Industry aimed at foreign markets

A RATHER large part of Danish manufactures is aimed at export markets.

In 1986, the production of direct and indirect exports represented approximately 56 per cent of total value added in Danish manufacturing industries.

Indirect exports consist of deliveries of raw materials or other components between branches, which subsequently are used in an export production.

These deliveries correspond to about 13 per cent of total value added in Danish manufacturing.

Exports
The dependence on exports has been growing for the last 20 years. In 1966, exports accounted for only 36 per cent of value added. This development reflects the fact that Danish manufacturing industries have played their part in the growing international division of labour in this period.

All the major industrial branches have been exposed to this process of increasing internationalisation, although not to the same degree. Some branches like for example manufacturing of fabricated metal products were already in the late sixties oriented towards the international markets.

Other branches like textile, clothing and leather industries experienced rapidly growing export shares.

This development gives cause for a short comment on economists' ability to point out growth industries or doomed industries.

In the late sixties and early seventies some economists were inclined to give the thumbs down concerning prospects for the clothing industry in Denmark. This judgement was

based on the belief that the Danish clothing industry would not in the long term be able to compete with low-wage, newly industrialised countries.

Nevertheless, the Danish clothing industry is today a prosperous industry. It has successfully applied high-tech equipment in the production process. Computer aided design making is a common feature in the clothing industry and the application of high-tech equipment has also helped

to cut down general production costs.

In the past five to six years, export shares have only risen marginally. This, however, is not due to a poor export performance of Danish manufacturing industry. On the contrary, from 1982 to the first half of 1986 the growth of Danish manufacturing exports in value terms is second only to that of Japan.

Rise
The very modest overall rise in the export shares is due first of all to the tremendous rise in investments, which the Danish economy has experienced during the past few years. In real terms, industrial investments and other private sector investments have risen by approximately 90 per cent since 1982. A major part of these investments represents goods, which have been produced by Danish manufacturing industries.

As basic metal products and manufacturing of fabricated metal products are the industrial branches, which are most involved in production of investment goods, it is not surprising that export shares for these two branches have actually fallen since 1982.

Source: The Economic Department, Federation of Danish Industries.



Dependence on industrial exports has been growing for the last 20 years.

Exports: a unique feature of Danish agriculture

GENERALLY speaking the prime object of a national agricultural sector is to supply the domestic market with the foodstuffs and other agricultural products it needs.

Danish agriculture however is unique, as only one third of its production goes to domestic consumption, the remaining two-thirds being exported to some 175 countries.

The greater part of production is exported to other EEC countries with the United Kingdom the most major importer.

In joining the European Economic Community Denmark has become part of a community of 270 million potential consumers. A further 10 per cent is exported to other non-EEC European countries, while the remaining quantity is sold to the United States, Japan, the Middle East and other overseas countries.

Trade
Since the Second World War Denmark has built up a new export trade in meat, condensed milk, cheese and broilers of an annual value of some D.kr. 13 billion.

Some Danish cattle breeds, in particular the Red Danish Dairy Breed and Danish Black and White (Frisian), are exported to the far corners of the world. A large contingent of organisations and individuals are involved in promoting Danish agricultural exports globally. Ten marketing and export boards, representing the interests of co-operative and private trading supervise the exporting of agricultural products.

The Agricultural Marketing Board encourages Danish agricultural exports along with offices abroad. These offices are all run by Danish agricultural export associations.

A number of agricultural attaches are also appointed to Danish embassies abroad.

Helping to improve Kuwait's dental picture

By Jadranka Porter

A SMALL group of Danish dentists is working on a project that could change Kuwait's dental health picture.

If the project, known as the School Dental Health Programme, is as successful as it has been in Denmark, the incidence of dental decay among Kuwait's children will be, at the very least, halved by the mid-1990s.

The programme, introduced in 1986 in the Al-Adan region, focuses on preventive and curative measures in mobile clinics set up at the school.

The service covered 4,000 children in 1987. Current expansion plans call for treating 20,000 children by 1990.

The project was devised and

is being supervised and managed by experts from the Royal Dental College of Copenhagen. The Danish team is headed by Dr Curt Halling.

At the Kuwait Medical Centre which is a private dental clinic, Danish dentists are providing perhaps a less far-reaching but equally important service.

Led by Claus Schmith and sponsored by Fouad Al Ghanim, the Kuwait Medical Centre, which opened to the public three months ago handles a wide range of dental problems.

Patients at the centre usually belong to generations which have not had the benefit of a school dental service.

Dr Schmith says that unlike Denmark, in Kuwait there are

large groups that never dream of visiting a dentist unless they are in pain.

In Denmark, which boasts the best in dental health among its youth, biannual checkups are commonplace. Dr Schmith is a staunch supporter of school dental service, which instils in children habits that will give them healthy teeth as adults.

The Kuwait Medical Centre uses the latest American-made equipment. Along with Dr Schmith, the staff includes Ann Waardenburg, a chief dental technician; Esther Schmith, an administrator; and several Arabic-speaking dental nurses.

The team will be strengthened in September when two Danish dentists, hand-picked

by Dr Schmith, will join the centre.

An Arabic-speaking dentist is also expected to arrive shortly from the US.

Schmith said that private practice plays an important role in dental health care in Kuwait and complements public dental health service.

It also improves the dentist to patient ratio, which in Kuwait falls short of that prevailing in developed countries. Denmark has one dentist for every 700 people.

Private dental clinics fees, which are regulated by the Ministry of Public Health, are lower in Kuwait than in Western Europe or the US, says Schmith. He attributes the difference to the absence of a taxation system in Kuwait.

Greenland: grandiose and unique

In 1953, a constitutional amendment made Greenland an integral part of the Kingdom of Denmark. Tourists from all over the world are drawn in increasing numbers to this unique country.

GREENLAND, which stands for Kalaallit Nunaat (Land of Man) in the Greenlandic language, is the world's largest island with an area of 2,175,600 sq. km, almost as large as Saudi Arabia and more than five times the size of New Guinea, the world's second-largest island.

The distance between the south and north of Greenland is 2,670 km, and the longest distance between the west and the east coast is a good 1,000 km. The southernmost point is Cape Farewell on 59°46' N. lat., the same latitude as Oslo, the capital of Norway.

The Danish influence began in 1721, when the priest Hans Egede founded a mission and trading station in West Greenland. New stations proliferated in the next 150-200 years. Greenlanders sold skins, blubber and walrus tusks through a Danish-controlled trading company and the country, as a Danish colony, was all but isolated from the rest of the world right up to the Second World War.

At the start of the war, the links with Denmark were severed. The United States sent in military forces, set up radar stations and airfields, and Greenlanders were suddenly subjected to the good and bad of western civilization. With the end of the war and the resumption of contacts with Denmark, the inhabitants had no desire to return to the bygone closed society, and the transition from old to new gathered pace with regard to education, hospital facilities, fishing industries and so on.

In 1953, a constitutional amendment made Greenland an integral part of the Kingdom of Denmark, and in 1979 inter-

nal autonomy was introduced, with an elected Assembly (Landsstyre) of 21 members (later 26) and an autonomous government (Landsstyret) of six members.

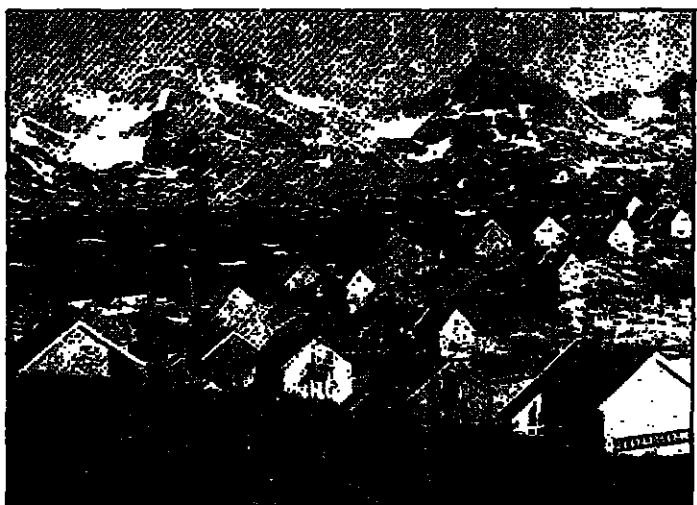
The Landsstyre's current chairman, and with that head of government, is Jonathan Motzfeldt. The country's administration is conducted from the capital Godthab (Nuuk). Greenland received its own flag in 1985. The population numbers around 53,000, of which about 11,000 reside in the capital.

An increasing number of the duties previously entrusted to the Danish government's Ministry for Greenland has been transferred to the home government, which exercised a monopoly on trade to and from Greenland, has been replaced by a Greenlandic company under the name of Greenland Trade (Kalaallit Niuersiat).

Independence

As part of this development towards increasingly greater independence, the Greenlandic side places heavy emphasis on Greenlanders filling more and more of the positions hitherto occupied by Danes sent out to the country, and in the search for their own identity, most Eskimos in Greenland now prefer to describe themselves as Inuits, underlining the sense of common heritage felt with their counterparts in northern Canada, Alaska and the Soviet Union.

Greenland has its own broadcasting services and since 1982 also its own nationwide Greenlandic television. There are flight connections several times a week between Copenhagen and the large airport at Sondre Stromfjord, and the



All of Greenland is a mountainous country and in many places there is only a short distance from the coast to the inland ice.



The Vikings (Northmen) were the first Europeans to arrive in Greenland. Ruins of their villages can still be seen in Greenland.

Greenlandic aviation company Gronlandsfly flies domestic routes to points, where it has been possible to construct an airfield.

Tourists from all over the world are drawn in increasing numbers to the grandiose and quite unique nature of Greenland.

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If you are looking for a first class, friendly and personal Hotel with very attractive rates and the best recreational facilities in town... then we've just the place for you!

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Social welfare gets a high priority

To fall sick, become old or lose one's job always exacts a human toll ... but in an economic sense such a misfortune is not all that great in Denmark. One third of the state budget goes towards social welfare.

If you come to Denmark, you will hear many complain about the high taxes, but at the same time you will encounter a broad consensus among Danes that this is the price one has to pay to live in a society where social welfare has the highest priority of perhaps any other country — Sweden and Denmark are a little at odds over which of the two takes first place.

To fall sick or become old or to lose one's job always exacts a human toll, but in an economic sense such a misfortune in Denmark is not all that great as a rule.

No less than one-third of the State's total expenditure — in 1986, the figure comprised DKK 64 billion out of DKK 185 billion — goes to social services, and over and above this the local health services are financed with an additional DKK 25 billion from the county authorities. In other words, around 18,000 DKK — roughly equivalent to UK £1,600 or US \$2,400 — each year is invested in the social and

medical wellbeing of every Dane.

On falling ill, anyone can go to a doctor for no fee. In fact, the public health system entitles every one of the five million Danes to his own doctor among the 3,000 or so general practitioners in town and country. The doctor can, if he deems it necessary, refer the patient to a qualified specialist for treatment, or he can, if the case is serious and perhaps requires surgery, have the patient admitted to a hospital.

Here there is expert medical and surgical aid available as well as qualified nursing staff to assist in the best possible way — at no expense to the patient. A hospital bed may well cost between DKK 3,000 and 4,000 per day, but the costs are borne by the public authorities.

Older citizens — all those past 67 years of age — receive a pension from the state, enough to pay for life's basic necessities, while a similar scheme applies to those persons under

67, who on grounds of physical handicap, disability or bad health, are not able to seek full employment.

As in most other countries, Denmark has its own share of unemployment at the end of 1986 around eight per cent of the total workforce. Thanks to a national insurance scheme, to which both employees and — to a large degree — the state contribute, the unemployed receive paid-out benefits, which are somewhat below what they would otherwise earn.

By offering training and retraining schemes, the state attempts to assist the unemployed and particularly the

young among them to find a job.

While on the topic of the labour market, it may be mentioned that the working week is 39 hours and that everyone is entitled to five weeks' paid holidays each year. A female employee receives up to 24 weeks' maternity leave with partial compensation. She can if desired allocate part of this leave to the father.

The main thread running through social legislation is that no-one needing assistance should be left in the lurch, and in the Ministry of Social Affairs fresh initiatives are constantly being made to help achieve this aim.

Provinsbanken A/S lends a helping hand

PROVINSBANKEN A/S, origins date back to 1846 and it is the fourth largest commercial bank in Denmark. It conducts its operations from four regional central offices, located in Denmark's four largest cities: Copenhagen, Aarhus, Odense and Aalborg, through a network of 218 branches. Each regional central office provides a full range of domestic and international banking services.

Over the past ten years, the Provinsbanken Group has expanded rapidly abroad. It has a subsidiary bank in Luxembourg, an off-shore branch in the Cayman Islands, a branch in New York, a subsidiary as well as a representative office in Hong Kong, a representative office in Spain and in London which will be upgraded to a branch later in the year.

Provinsbanken is however not represented in any country in the Middle East through its own branches, and transactions are carried out through correspondent banks in the area.

The main part of the bank's activities in the region relates to Danish trade with the countries of the region.

For many years the bank has had close links with a large number of banks in the region which enable it to carry out all kinds of transactions including financing, issuing of guarantees and payment transfers.

As far as inter-bank transactions are concerned, the bank is active in foreign exchange and Eurobond dealing.

Due to the relatively high Danish interest level and the stable Danish krone exchange rate brought about by Denmark's participation in the EMS system, Danish bonds have been an attractive investment medium for foreign institutional and private investors over the last few years.

These investments are made by non-residents, primarily in government bonds and Danish mortgage bonds, in principle, a 100 per cent safe investment. Investors therefore need not assess the quality of the bond issuer and only have to take interest and exchange rate risks into consideration.

Provinsbanken A/S staff often travel to the Middle East to develop relations with their partners and to help banking-related tasks for its customers.



Older citizens past 67 years of age receive a state pension enough to pay for life's basic necessities.

The Sultan Center: coping well with success

'Competition keeps us on our toes'

One of the most successful retail outlets in Kuwait, The Sultan Center aims to provide high-quality goods and services in a friendly environment. Jadranka Porter takes a look behind the scenes at this remarkable operation.

"It is easier to cope with a failure than with success," says Pritpal Bansal of the Sultan Center, one of the most successful food retail outlets in Kuwait.

Yet success is something many companies in Kuwait would be glad to cope with. After eight years of war in neighbouring Iraq and Iran and declining oil prices, some companies in the country are barely staying afloat.

But being a leader means being a target for the competition. "It keeps us on our toes," Bansal says.

Retaining customers' loyalty and attracting new shoppers is the greatest challenge for a retail outlet. The Sultan Center strives to provide high-quality goods and service in an entertaining and friendly environment, says Bansal, the center's director of merchandise.

The company's efforts have yielded results. Tens of thousands of consumers shop at the Salmiya outlet weekly, according to the number of receipts issued, but customers rarely shop unaccompanied.

In addition, the shopping centre is visited by numerous "tourists," says Bansal. They are the people who are more interested in seeing and being seen than in shopping.

The "tourists" are particularly in evidence on week-

ends. To learn more about its customers, the Sultan Center conducted a survey last month which revealed that shoppers consider prices high at the Sultan Center.

Bansal said that this is partly a psychological effect of a supermarket which is well-stocked and attractively furnished. "People walk into this place and think 'it looks good so it must be expensive,'" he said.

In fact, the Sultan Center maintains tight price controls, and Bansal claims their prices are either on par or below those in the co-operatives.

Prices

He pointed out that prices for the same item vary depending on quality and country of origin.

"We have vegetables, for example, which are locally produced and the imported ones. It stands to reason that

the imported ones would be more expensive. But we insist on variety and have prices that would suit different customers," said Bansal.

The company is working on a plan to show consumers that the Sultan Center prices compare well with those in other retail outlets.

Promotion

The survey, based on a random sample of 1,000 households, also revealed that the most frequent customers at the supermarket are between 18 and 45 years old and that they are equally split between the Kuwaitis and expatriates. Those polled gave high ratings to the quality of goods, variety and service.

Promotions draw big crowds at the Sultan Center, particularly at its Salmiya outlet. They boost the sales and turn the shopping center into a hub of activity with certain entertainment value, says Bansal.

The latest promotion highlights Danish products such as frozen meat, groceries, cookies and dairy products. Consumers are invited to sample some of the Danish foodstuffs at demonstration tables. The center also highlights Danish-made Lego toys which have been on its shelves for years.

A promotion which was an outstanding success. Anyone buying goods worth KD10 or more could enter a raffle. The winner received a BMW car, and there were 209 other prizes.

A similar promotion is being held currently with prizes including a BMW car, a Kawasaki motorcycle and half a kilogramme of gold.

The Sultan Center, which runs a restaurant in Salmiya outlet will also launch three restaurants in the waterfront project which will total seating capacity of 1,500.

For the first time in Kuwait will have a restaurant. The Sultan Center has negotiated a franchise agreement with Chichi, a well-known Mexican restaurant. It will be the same name. Another three restaurants will be opened. Chinese cuisine while the third will be called the Garden and will sell European food. Only fresh ingredients will be used at all three restaurants.



The dangers of pollution of the environment are realised fully by Danish authorities, industry, agriculture and the general public.

Caring for the environment

DENMARK has a coastline that is over 7,200 km long facing busy, international waters where an oil spill is a real, everyday risk.

The country also has an economically important industrial production involving high technology industries using potentially hazardous materials and processes, and a well-developed farming sector which can cause environmental damage of a different type.

The dangers of pollution of the environment are realised fully by Danish authorities, by industry and agriculture, and by the general public. In media terms, environmental issues are news. This awareness was stimulated further during the 1986-87 winter, when fishermen reported catches of dead fish — killed by oxygen deficiency in the sea about Denmark.

If it were needed, this emphasised the delicate ecological balance of the Baltic Sea, and led to a sharp public debate on measures to control marine pollution and limit deoxygenation.

At central government level, Danish environmental management is the task of the Ministry of the Environment, established in 1973. Five agencies operate under the Ministry and are concerned respectively with forests and nature, monuments and sites, physical planning, foods and geological surveying.

The agencies gather data, provide the basis for legislation and policy decisions, and act as consultancy services for the administration and the general public.

Concerned

Decentralisation is a feature of many aspects of Danish administration, and a large part of environmental management has been devolved to elected regional (counties) or local bodies (councils). In 1982, Denmark spent about DKK 4,500 million, or two per cent of total public expenditure, on environmental protection. The Ministry of the Environment share of this was DKK 565 million, or 0.4 per cent of central government expenditures.

Limiting pollution and putting funds into environmental control have moved from idealism to a practical and viable proposition. A number of Danish companies have even found it to be an exciting new field for export of systems and equipment.

The agency most directly concerned with pollution is the National Agency of Environmental Protection (NAEP), which operates six laboratories and institutions. It is formed as a series of separate departments for specific aspects of environmental control, including hygiene, noise, agriculture, chemicals, etc. etc. NAEP and its institutions are represented in expert groups formed under the European Commission, and involved in other international contacts, including activities resulting from Danish participation in conventions on the marine environment, in OECD, UNEP, ECE and the related EMEP programme, environmental activities and

contacts between the Nordic countries, and relevant activities within the framework of FAO, the Council of Europe, CGMS and NATO.

NAEP has also played an important role as catalyst in the development of a number of pollution control methods. The Agency is the designated operational centre for major incidents, and for any form of oil pollution at sea and has access to 18 custom-built vessels equipped for oil control, as well as over 16,000 metres of coastal floating barriers and 6,000 metres of open sea floating barriers.

Appropriate chemicals, pumps and retrieval capacity are available as well. Normally

NAEP favours mechanical systems to clear oil pollution, and the available equipment could handle a spill of up to about 10,000 tonnes under most conditions.

The length of coastline, and fragile ecological balance in national waters, have focussed interest upon marine pollution. But research, control and regulation, have been applied in all areas, and Danish limits on the content of industrial effluents are already among the strictest in Europe, and becoming steadily stricter.

Both agriculture and industry have acknowledged the need for protection of the environment. Ways to control the leaching of agricultural fertilisers without materially affecting production are being examined, and results so far point towards a number of methods to achieve a series of useful savings rather than a single major breakthrough. Useful progress has also been achieved in limiting industrial pollution, and in treating sewage and waste problems in urban areas.



The Danish countryside: limits on the content of industrial effluents are among the strictest.

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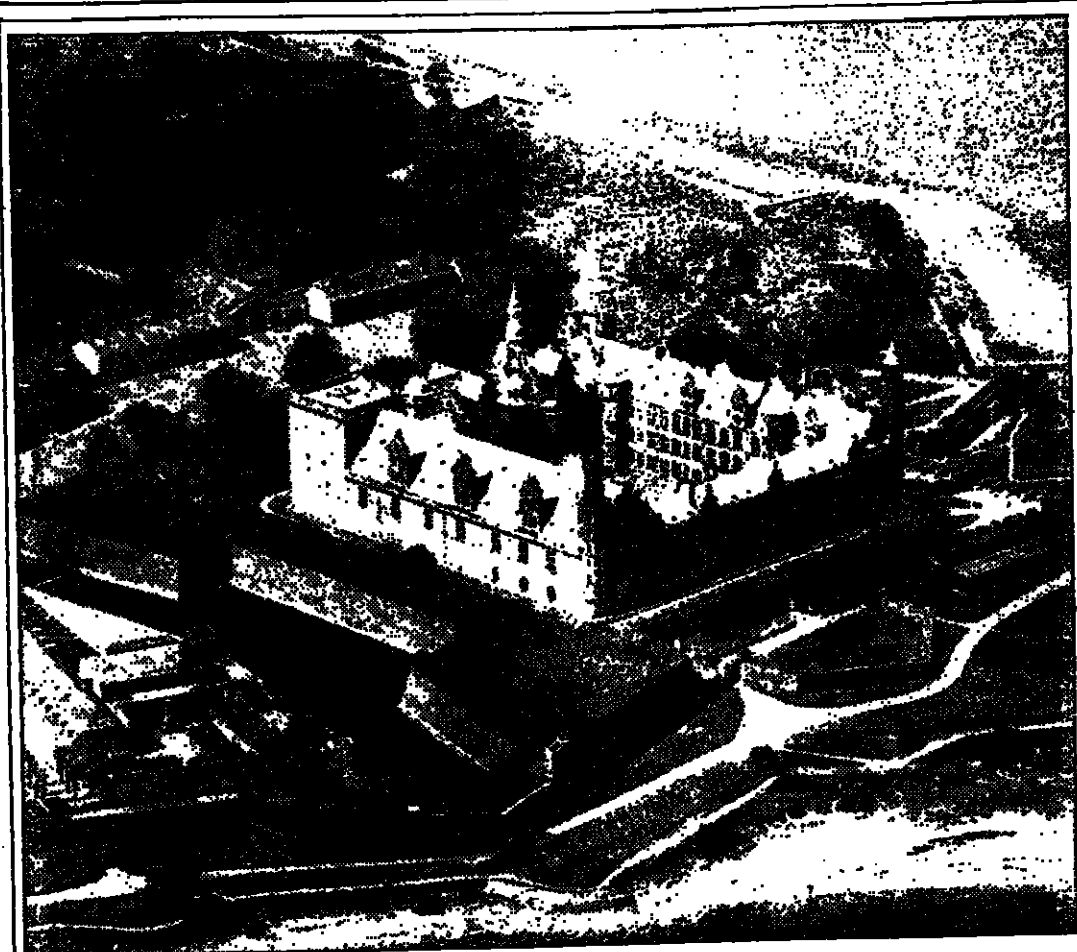
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Kronborg Castle, Denmark

Small and beautiful

HANS Christian Andersen has written fairy tales, which have been translated into almost 100 languages and read by children and adults throughout the world.

But he also wrote poetry — not known by the world at large but loved by all Danes — in which he praises his country and declares his love, as in the following lines: "In Denmark I am born, that is my home, there are my roots, from there comes my world, you Danish language you are my mother's voice, how sweetly you blessed my heart once."

Andersen wrote further of the bracing Danish beaches, of the green islands and of Jutland as the head of land separating on one side the Baltic and the Kattegat and on the other the North Sea.

This picture of Denmark as a strongly varied land, both from a geographical and scenic point of view, also applies today, but first some of the salient facts regarding size and situation deserve to be mentioned:

Denmark's total area is around 43,000 sq. km, equivalent to the size of Switzerland or one-ninth of California, situated between 54°34' and 57°45' N. lat. and 8°5' and 15°12' E. long. If these figures do not convey much, suffice it to say that Denmark is joined to the European continent by a frontier with the Federal Republic of Germany; otherwise its nearest neighbours are Sweden and Norway, lying respectively just 20 km away over the Sound and approximately 200 km over the Skagerrak. The distance to Britain measures about 500 km across the North Sea.

Despite its very modest size, Denmark, as already mentioned, offers a greater geographical variation than that found in many other countries.

The peninsula of Jutland is anchored to the central European mainland, but otherwise Denmark is comprised of those green islands that Hans Christian Andersen wrote about and there is an incredible amount of these, numbering no fewer than 406 larger and smaller isles, of which 90 are inhabited. The largest is Zealand — with the capital of Copenhagen — Funen, the twin islands of Lolland-Falster, and Bornholm in the Baltic, lying about 200 km east of the rest of Denmark.

This sharp land division has in relation to area created an unusually long coastline of no less than 7,300 km, equivalent to, believe it or not, one-sixth of the earth's circumference.

This close proximity to the sea comes naturally to the Danes themselves, but is seen by many foreign visitors as something unusual and attractive.

There have been cases of tourists from Central Europe visiting Denmark for the sole reason of wandering along the 200 km of shore bordering the North Sea and stretching from the Danish-German border to the tip of Jutland.

Unbroken
 Along the west coast of Jutland stretches an almost broken row of high, denuded dunes. Mid-Jutland is characterized by moors, lakes and "mountains", which do not approach a height of more than 170 metres, even if Danes — somewhat exuberantly — describe one of them as a "Sky Mountain".

The east coast of Jutland is indented with many inlets surrounded by woodland and fertile agricultural land. Most

Despite its modest size, Denmark offers great geographical variety

of the bigger islands are a constant green with good arable land and towns and villages nestled close to one another. Exceptional is the rocky island of Bornholm, which geologically has more in common with Sweden than Denmark.

Denmark's climate, because of its variable nature, is always a good topic for conversation. One is never certain whether a new day will bring sun or rain. Many Danes would prefer more settled weather conditions, but visiting foreigners, used perhaps to longer periods of warmth or cold, often find the changeable Danish climate charming.

Surprise

It comes as no surprise that it has proved less than easy to link up Denmark's traffic network, and many ferries and bridges are necessary to accomplish this. Ferries accommodating up to 2,000 passengers and 300-400 cars regularly sail between Zealand and Funen and between Zealand and Jutland, and ever more impressive new bridges continue to be built. The latest of these stretches for 3.3 km between Zealand and Falster, serving as a link for the motorway between Scandinavia and West Germany.

Parliament has approved a project to be carried out in the next 8-9 years, linking Zealand

and Funen via a 20 km long bridge and tunnel network over the Great Belt.

The scheme has been discussed for as long as that for a tunnel under the English Channel, and many Danes remain a bit sceptical whether the Great Belt project will ever be realized.

Denmark has a population of just over 5.1 million, of whom 70 per cent live in urban areas. The largest city is Copenhagen, with a population of 1.4 million in the entire metropolitan area. Aarhus on the east coast of Jutland is Denmark's second-largest city, with 254,000 inhabitants, followed by Odense, the largest town on Funen, with 173,000, and Aalborg in North Jutland, with 155,000.

Two autonomous regions belong to the Kingdom of Denmark, namely Greenland, which attained status of internal autonomy in 1979, and the Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic, granted home rule in 1948.

The two areas have their own legislative assemblies for internal affairs, while foreign and defence policies come under the central government in Copenhagen.

Greenland and the Faroes each elect two representatives to the Folketing (Denmark's Parliament).

A Commissioner appointed under the Royal Seal is the highest official Danish representative in each of the regions.

Maersk Line: 38 years of service to and from Kuwait

MAERSK Line, a leading Danish shipping company, celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. It was 38 years ago that the first Maersk Line merchant vessel docked at a port in Kuwait. Since then the company has run an uninterrupted service to Kuwait, with the help of its exclusive agents Mohammed Saleh Behbehani and Co. WLL.

The threat to shipping during the Gulf War, which forced many shippers to suspend their operation in the northern reaches of the Gulf, did not deter the Maersk Line which continued to service Kuwait ports twice a month.

Committed

"This just shows how committed we are to service," says Nils Knudsen, the owners' representative in Kuwait. But it turned out to be an expensive commitment as insurance premiums soared when the war escalated. However, with a ceasefire in effect the company is investigating ways of benefiting from the vastly improved security situation. Knudsen maintains that the Maersk Line's decision not to suspend its container service to Kuwait was a farsighted one and will keep the company in good stead in the forthcoming period.

Shipping companies expect the volume of business in the Gulf to expand in the aftermath of the ceasefire. This may cause an increase in freight rates but Knudsen says that the Maersk Line will put service before price considerations.

The company which operates more than 100 vessels including tankers, container ships and bulk carriers, pays particular attention to training programmes for its staff.

It hires young men and women straight from college who are then given two-years of training consisting of theoretical and practical programmes. The trainees learn about geography, navigation, maritime laws and the company's commercial interests.

Then they are sent to serve in one of the company's 150 offices in different parts of the world.

Maersk Line was established in 1928 by A.P. Moller group, which was founded in 1904 by A.P. Moller and his father, Captain P.M. Moller.

JP

Promising outlook for Danish exports

DENMARK experienced a marked improvement in the visible trade balance in 1987. The trade balance swung to a moderate DKK 1.2 bn surplus from a deficit of about DKK 13 bn in 1986.

1987 was the first year in the post-war period that Denmark produced a surplus. However, it was only in the first two quarters that exports in value terms exceeded imports.

For 1987 as a whole, the value of merchandise exports increased by about 2 per cent while imports were reduced by approximately 6 per cent.

Exports

After a relatively long period with that export growth, manufacturing exports finally gained momentum in the second half of last year.

The reason for this more favourable development was the upturn in important export markets which started around spring 1987.

Demand was particularly strong in EEC markets. In value terms, Danish exports of manufactures to the EEC area rose by nearly 10 per cent in 1987. Exports to the EEC countries account for about 45 per cent of total Danish exports.

Even though the export performance of the manufacturing sector has improved during the past year or so, the industry has still lost market shares.

The depreciation of main trading partners' currencies and the acceleration of internal wage costs during 1987 gen-

erally explain this development. The government has recently introduced a set of measures to remedy the insufficient competitive position of Danish manufacturing a main part of the programme was a change in employers social security contributions.

These contributions are now based on value added instead of the number of employees. This change has entailed an improvement in competitiveness of approximately 5 per cent.

Due to these measures, a somewhat more favourable international economic climate

Chart 1. The trade balance (f.o.b.-c.i.f.). Quarterly figures, seasonally adjusted.

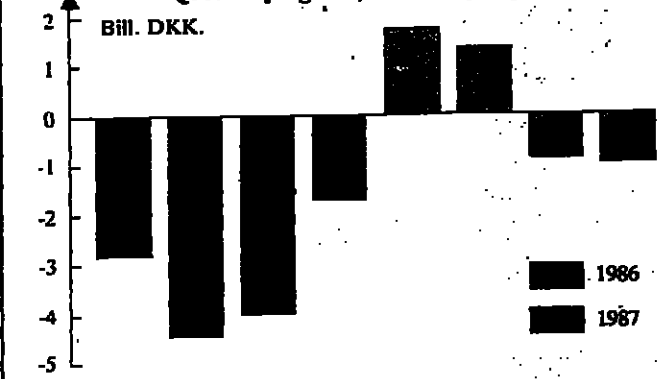


Chart 2. Manufacturing exports. Quantity indices, seasonally adjusted.

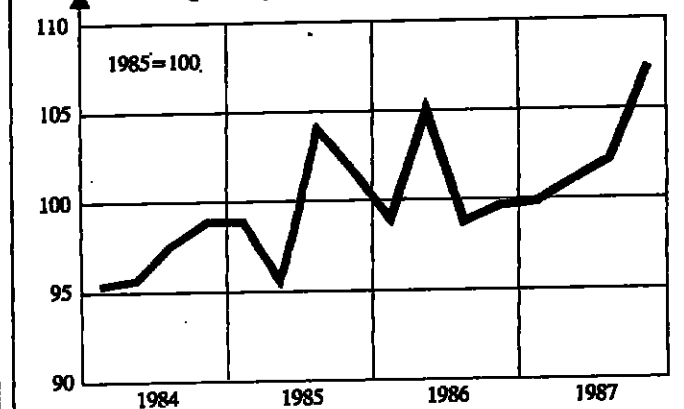
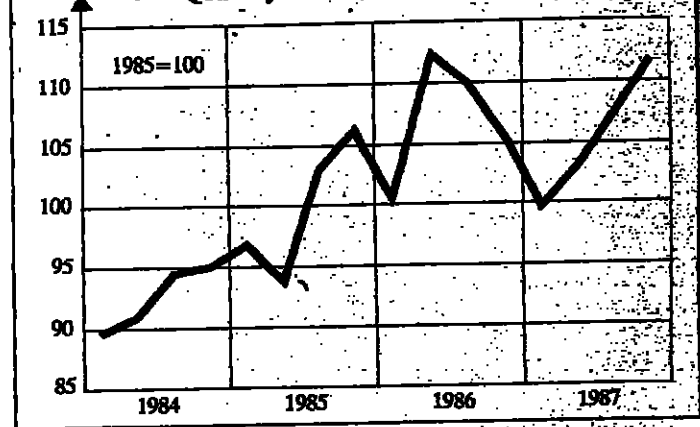


Chart 3. Import of goods. Quantity indices, seasonally adjusted.



Source: Federation of Danish Industries Economic Affairs Department.

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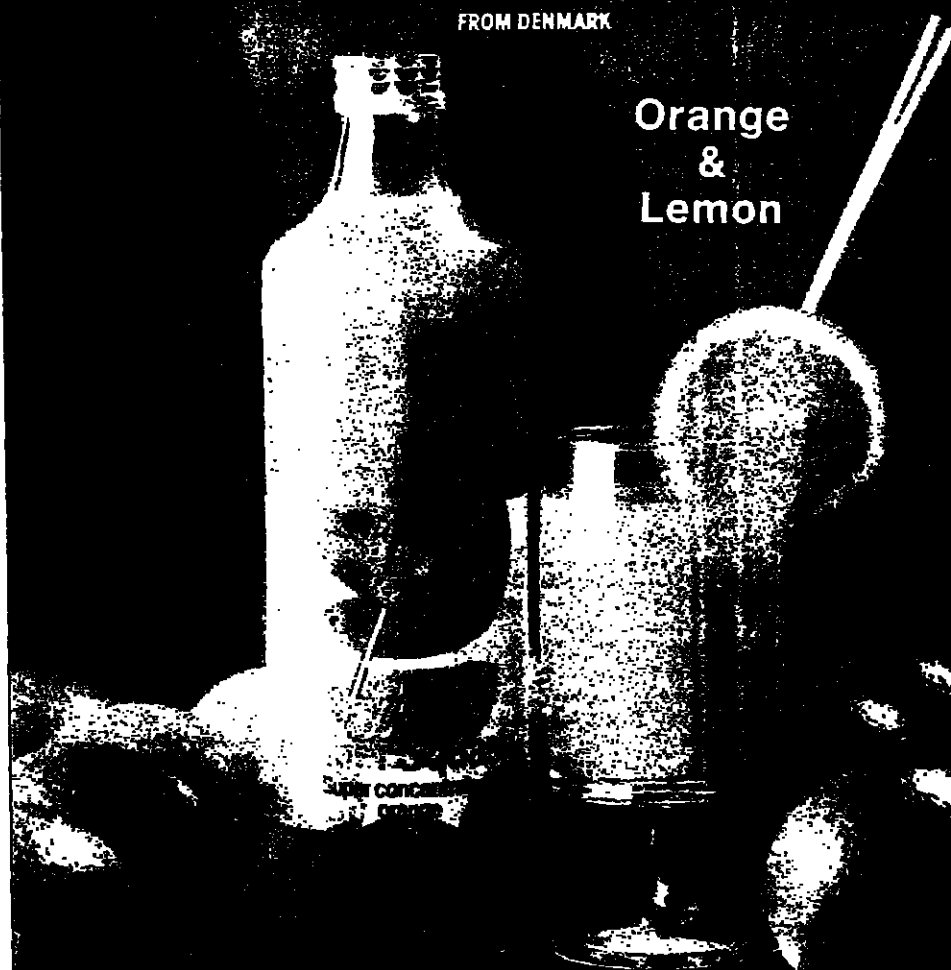
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Sandis lift ban on Filipino sea food exports

THE Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has lifted its ban on exports of certain Philippine food products, it was announced last night by the Philippine Food Exporters and Processors Organisation (Philofoodex).

Philofoodex said the Saudi Arabian Health Ministry lifted a ban on Philippine exports after alleging cholera was present in the country.

The Philippines was listed along with Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zaire, Angola, Iran, and Bangladesh.

Among the products affected were milk and its products, fish and other sea products (fresh, frozen, hard dried, salted, and tinned), leaves and vegetables.

Saudi authorities lifted the ban after the World Health Organisation declared that the Philippines is cholera free, Philofoodex said.

The organization urged food exporters who are targeting the Saudi market to co-ordinate with it so as to ensure that standards are met.

Philofoodex brought the matter to the attention of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health after its members felt the effects of the Saudi ban.

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By Willie Ng

DOES former President Marcos really want to come home? There are some who believe that Mr Marcos, despite his long and vociferous demands to be allowed to come home, really does not want to land at the Manila International Airport, now renamed in honour of his nemesis, Ninoy Aquino.

But if one talks to those few who remain close to Mr Marcos and who have visited him, he will be convinced that in spite of illegal wealth charges, awaiting him here, he does want to come home.

It may not sound logical. But logic has taken second place to homesickness in the logical mind of the former president.

He grew up here. He had his greatest triumphs here. "Honolulu may be a paradise, but there is no place like home," Imelda R. Marcos was reported to have said in a recent talk with an old friend.

Indeed, Honolulu is a paradise. The trade winds blow there practically year-round, producing a superior climate. There are no pollution-producing factories there.

The department stores and supermarkets are well-stocked. And don't forget that the Mar-

Does Marcos really want to come home?

cos home in Makiki is on a hill, in a tony neighbourhood, looking down on the city.

Like her husband, Mrs Marcos believes that she has achievements here. The public may call them her extravaganzas, but they are achievements to her.

Friends of Marcos report that the government's decision to allow him to come home has given him a new purpose in life.

He is now busily planning each step of this project. The homecoming is for himself and his family, including children and grandchildren, plus about 40 people serving him.

Of course, the project includes plans to defend himself from all possible charges to be filed against him by the PCGG. Right now, there are 39 civil suits awaiting him before the Sandiganbayan.

The Solicitor General's office is ready to file 15 criminal charges against him.

Even a healthy young lawyer would quail at the prospect of fighting 54 lawsuits. The idol of

the Ilocos has announced he will not ask any lawyer to represent him as he will be his own lawyer.

In keeping them away all this time, President Aquino has actually done Mr and Mrs Marcos a favour.

During these two and a half years, the charges against the Marcos couple were aired and re-aired a hundred times. Their excesses were discussed in every home in the archipelago.

Now there is no longer any thing new that can be said against them. Their sins may not have been forgiven, but they are no longer fresh. Anger has given way to some sort of acceptance.

Mr Marcos will find that a homecoming today will be a far better one than a homecoming in 1986 or even 1987.

Even officially, things have improved for him.

Many were jolted to read in the newspapers the statement of President Aquino that Mr Marcos would be given adequate security should he come home, and if necessary, AFP Chief of

Staff Gen. Renato de Villa would escort him from the airport.

"It's the responsibility of this government to provide adequate protection to everybody, especially to somebody who has occupied such a high position," she said.

Of course, many suspect that the president's reassurance of security for Mr Marcos was brought on by two innocent remarks from Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig.

Asked if there were problems concerning the Marcos return, Macaraig said "there is really a problem because there are those who might try to do him harm and put the blame on the President."

He added Mr Marcos could be harmed by the enemies of the government, in answer to another question.

There were some misinterpretations of these matter-of-fact answers.

Hence, the President's quick reaction to assure "adequate security" for her predecessor.

PBA All-Filipino Conference

Hotdogs book finals berth

PUREFOODS Hotdogs woke up in time from a homestretch collapse to pulverise Alaska Milk, 121-112, and book the first championship ticket in the PBA All-Filipino Conference at the ULTRA.

In the nightcap, Anejo Rum downed Great Taste, 105-90, in a game marred by a near-fistfight wherein Rudy Distrito pushed Santiago Cabatu during a rebound battle. Cooler heads, however, prevented a fracas among the players.

The victory gave the Rum Makers a 10-7 record and a share of second place, with idle San Miguel Beer.

Distrito was summoned by the PBA for his punching foul on Cabatu that led to his ejection with 6:35 to go.

Suddenly turning cold in the last two minutes, the Hotdogs found a firestarter in Al Solis, who eluded six straight points in the last two minutes that doused the Milk Kings' hopes of reversing the game.

With the triumph, their 13th in 18 games, the Hotdogs thus became the first squad to enter the best-of-five title series which begins on Sept 6.

"We could now afford to try new play patterns in our next two games while waiting for the championship," said Purefoods' coach Cris Cailan, who is eyeing his first PBA title in his rookie year.

Prior to mentoring the Hotdogs, Cailan is best remembered for steering the Ateneo Blue Eagles to their first UAAP title, also in his debut last year.

Alaska's loss, its ninth in 18 games, virtually turned off the lights for the Milk Kings' hopes of repeating their runnerup finish last year.

Trailing by six at the start of the final period, Alaska unloaded a 15-point salvo to take a 97-94 lead, 7:32 left.

The Milk Kings closed to within 110-112 after a drive by Marte Saldana, Nanning Valenciano nudged Alaska to within 112-113 before Solis came up with his six-point flurry as Purefoods took a decisive 119-112 spread.

SCORES:
FIRST GAME
PUREFOODS 121 — PATRIMONIO 27, Fernandez 28, Lastimosa 19, Colina 18, Solis 17, Yung 10, Villapando 6, Israel 2, Genarino 2, Capacio 0.
ALASKA 112 — M. Saldana 25, Valenciano 21, Robles 16, Peralta 17, Villanueva 9, Alatorre 6, Ravara 6, Polistico 4, Luzzaro 4, Liza 2.
Quarters: 28-37, 61-57, 88-82, 121-112.
Ref: R. Bernal, E. de Leon, S. Capitan.

SECOND GAME
ANEJO 108 — JAWARIN 22, C. Loyzaga 21, Ampaylo 18, Mananila 16, Distrito 12, Gonzales 10, Colina 4, Isaac 2, J. Loyzaga 0.
GTM 98 — Cailan 21, Co 18, Trinidad 16, Cabatu 14, Alatorre 10, Cabatu 7, King 4, Cozar 0, Juarez 0.
Quarters: 28-24, 51-47, 71-71, 105-98.
Ref: G. Ledesma, D. Bayala, A. Bantolano.

Consensus needed on Marcos' return

MANY people have found it disconcerting, to say the least, to suddenly hear President Aquino remarking matter-of-factly that if the courts say so, then Ferdinand Marcos may come flying home. What happened between her last vehement objection to his return and her latest statement that the dictator who had fled to the safety and comfort of America may now come home?

This is one case when Malacanang may find it useful to listen what the people have to say. It is better to have a national consensus guide the hand of the President.

Share

But if the people are to participate more intelligently in evolving a consensus on whether or not Marcos should be allowed to return home at this point, President Aquino has to share enough information with them to serve as factual basis for forming an opinion. Not enough data have been allowed to filter to the people, not even to their representatives in Congress and the media. The dearth of data makes the public mind fertile ground for speculation but a barren field for an intelligent discussion.

Until Malacanang levels with the people, speculation will continue that the impending return of Marcos is the result either of a negotiated accommodation or pressures from the Reagan Administration, or both.

The "if the courts say so" statement of the President appears to take off from the controversial Sandiganbayan resolution of Aug 18 granting a petition of the government to perpetuate the testimony of former Public Works Secretary Baltazar Aquino on alleged kickbacks during the Marcos regime. But, as the Solicitor-General himself has said, Marcos' physical presence is not essential to perpetuating the testimony of witness. It should also be noted that at this point no criminal charges have been filed against Marcos.

Frustrate

This seems to indicate that if President Aquino does not want Marcos back at this point, she can always frustrate his return regardless of the Sandiganbayan resolution. This is the reason why there is a widespread impression that President Aquino has actually agreed to Marcos' return, with the Sandiganbayan resolution being a mere convenient excuse for her new position. A more substantial and credible statement from the President should be forthcoming.

Editorial: Philippine Inquirer

ARAB TIMES MONTHLY



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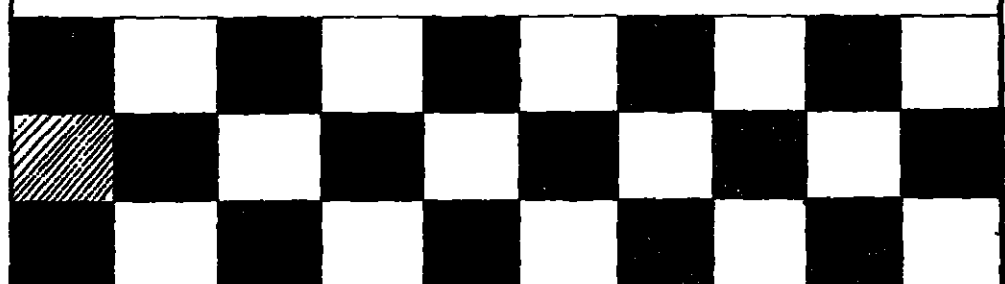
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Filipino education system has slumped to mediocrity

"A lot of them (examinees) could not even express themselves," said Rebuena, who had administered the examinations for 11 years.

Ernesto Jaurigue, director-general of the Professional Regulation Commission, reports a similar decline in examinations for other professions such as medicine, engineering and nursing.

Even before the Bar exam results were announced, signs of trouble had been clear for years.

In state-run elementary and high schools, students are jammed more than 50 to a classroom, often in the care of a poorly trained teacher — the product of the same, mediocre educational system.

Curricula emphasise rote memory rather than group discussions, which educators say hone analytical and problem-solving skills. Many high school disciplines are taught in English, a language which many from

poor families cannot comprehend well.

With widespread poverty and poor foundations, many graduates of public high schools either cannot afford fees at elite private colleges or are unable to win places at the state-run University of the Philippines.

Thousands of them wind up in privately owned "diploma mills," which churn out thousands of teachers, nurses and other professionals who cannot qualify for jobs when they graduate. Many of them end up as servants in affluent countries.

Yet, it was not always that way.

Amado Dizon, secretary-general of the Co-ordinating Council of Private Educational Associations, recalls that several decades ago, the quality of education was so high that a sixth-grade student could qualify as a substitute teacher for the lower grades.

Today, education officials admit that many teachers, especially in the countryside, are not qualified to teach and pass on their ignorance to their students.

When the United States colonised this country at the turn of the century, it introduced a public school system pattern after its own. It shipped thousands of American teachers to educate a people who had not had widespread access to schooling through three centuries of Spanish rule.

Neglect

In a few decades, the demand for higher education was so strong that the handful of existing private and state colleges could not cope. Private schools flourished.

The Philippines still claims one of the highest literacy rates in Asia at 89 per cent. But many question the figure because it includes people who read and write little else besides their names.

God were not involved, I think I'd go crazy."

Group assails PAL smoking ban

THE Philippine Tobacco Institute (PTI) protested a decision by Philippine Airlines to ban smoking on all its domestic flights starting Sept 1.

The PTI is an association of leading cigarette manufacturers.

Dr Victor Ordonez, Undersecretary of Education, attributes the slide to lack of money, neglect of the education sector during the 20-year rule of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, and, most importantly, on the system's own inflexibility.

Even under the Marcos administration, education officials already recognised the problem. With a loan of \$100 million from the World Bank, they launched a programme in 1980 to reform the public elementary school system. The programme ends this year.

Another \$200-million programme, financed by grants from various countries and loans from the Asian Development Bank, is to be launched next year to upgrade public high schools.

Both programmes involve intensive retraining of teachers, rewriting books and revamping curricula. Elementary curricula were reorganised to emphasise basics — reading, writing and arithmetic.

Public school teachers' salaries also have been increased recently. The national average salary for a new teacher was raised this year to 2,400 pesos (\$120) a month from 1,500 pesos (\$75).

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SPORTS

Brewers hand Tigers 19th loss in 11 games

NEW YORK, Sept. 3, (AP) — Bill Wengert's first career shutout was easy. All the Milwaukee right-handers had to do was let it happen.

Wengert pitched a four-hitter and Bill Schroeder hit a two-run homer last night as the Brewers beat Detroit 5-0, the Tigers' 19th loss in 11 games.

The defeat made the American League East a tight race. Boston remained one game behind, but New York City within four games and Milwaukee pulled within six.

In other American League games, Cleveland beat Chicago 3-1 in 17 innings, Toronto edged Texas 7-6, Minnesota defeated Kansas City 6-3, Baltimore won over Seattle 4-3, California took a 3-2 win over Boston and New York downed Oakland 4-1.

The Brewers won their fourth straight and has gained five games on the Tigers in the last 12 days.

"If they sweep us and win six from Chicago, the Brewers can take this thing," Detroit manager Sparky Anderson said. "That's their chance. It'll be hard, though, because either New York or Boston or us could get hot again."

Attempt

In Anaheim, California Bob Boone hit a two-run single in the seventh inning as the California Angels edged Boston 3-2 and frustrated the Red Sox's attempt to grab a share of the American League East lead.

The Red Sox lost for the fourth time in five games and remained one game behind division-leading Detroit.

The Yankees' Tommy John won his 28th career game by beating the Athletics in Oakland 4-1. New York pulled within four games of the American League East lead.

Jack Clark hit his 23rd home run and the Yankees turned five double plays against the AL West-leading Athletics, Oakland is 8 1/2 games ahead of Minnesota.

Cleveland's Julio Franco had five hits and scored on Andy Allanson's single with two outs in the 13th inning, giving the Cleveland Indians a 4-3 victory over the White Sox.

In Seattle, Joe Orsulak, who led the team with a home run, hit a three-run homer in the fifth as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Mariners 4-3.

Toronto's George Bell, who homered and drove in four runs, singled home Tony Fernandez with one out in the ninth inning and the Blue Jays beat the Texas Rangers 7-6.

Results			
American League			
New York	4	Oakland	1
California	3	Boston	2
Baltimore	4	Seattle	3
Cleveland	4	Chicago	3
Minnesota	6	Kansas City	3
Toronto	7	Texas	6
Milwaukee	5	Detroit	0
National League			
St. Louis	2	Houston	0
Atlanta	2	Pittsburgh	1
San Diego	7	Philadelphia	4
New York	8	Los Angeles	0
Montreal	10	San Francisco	0
Chicago	6	Chicago	5

STOLTENBERG ELIMINATES NOAH FROM US OPEN

Connors and Agassi reach third round

NEW YORK, Sept. 3, (Reuter): Grizzled veteran Jimmy Connors and squeaky clean teen Andre Agassi shared centre court at the US Open yesterday in a vision of the old and new of American tennis.

Connors, a five-time champion, celebrated another happy birthday on the stadium court as he turned 36 with a 6-0-3-3-6-1 victory over Gilad Bloom of Israel in the second round.

Agassi, who is half his hero's age, continued to follow in Connors' footsteps as the new darling of the National Tennis Centre crowd by beating fellow-American Rick Leach 4-6-6-2-3-6-4.

The women's side was also dominated by an all-American power play as two-time defending champion Martina Navratilova and six-time champion Chris Evert raced to victories.

Top-seeded Ivan Lendl showed no ill effects of his five-set, first-round struggle against Israeli Amos Mansdorf, as he overwhelmed American Jay Berger 6-2-6-4-6-1.

The fifth day of the championships also saw a continuation of the peculiar grandstand court curse that has struck down three of the tournament's leading seeds, while 'Aussie power' was

once again in evidence.

Former French Open champion Yannick Noah was the latest seed to fall under the grandstand jinx and the Australian resurgence.

Noah, seeded seventh, quit his second-round match against Australian Jason Stoltenberg when trailing 6-2 7-6 5-1 as his aching knees would no longer carry him.

Boris Becker, the fifth seed, had limped to a straight-sets defeat to Australian Darren Cahill on the same court on Thursday.

Cahill's good fortunes continued yesterday. Without having to lift a racket, he became the first man to reach the round of 16.

The Australian's scheduled third-round opponent, Marcelo Ingaramo of Argentina, left the scene for home to join his wife who just gave birth to their child.

Yesterday's developments were simply the latest chapter in the Australian men's success story at this year's Open: Thursday also saw Australian Mark Woodforde knock out four-time champion John McEnroe.

Navratilova did not permit Australian heroics in her third-round match as she pounded Anne Minter 6-1 6-3 to reach the round of 16.

Sixteenth seed Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union fol-



Agassi in action against Leach. (Reuter wirephoto)

owed Navratilova into the fourth round with a straight set win over Carling Bassett-Seguso, and 11th-seeded American Zina Garrison followed suit, but two other seeds fell short.

American Stephanie Rehe surprised 10th seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany 6-3 2-6

6-3, and South African Elna Reinach ousted American Mary Joe Fernandez 7-5 6-3.

Evert's 6-1 6-0 thrashing of compatriot Halle Cioffi put her into the third round, where she was joined by six other women's seeds.

Two other men's seeds also

posted second-round victories — ninth-seeded American Tim Mayotte and Sweden's Anders Jarryd, number 15.

Mayotte used his serve-and-volley game to beat Gianluca Pozzi of Italy 6-3 7-5 6-4, while Jarryd demolished American Richey Reneberg 6-0 6-3 6-0.

Evert's stadium court match was sandwiched between appearances of the sixth-seeded Connors and fourth seed Agassi, who are seeded to meet in the quarterfinals.

That the old guard and new guard were on display delighted the packed crowd at Louis Armstrong stadium and the manner in which the two reached the third round was hauntingly similar.

Both of the slightly-built, two-fisted backhanders dropped one set and took about the same time to finish. Connors was three minutes faster in two hours 23 minutes.

The elder rushed the net 37 times for 24 points. The upstart came forward 35 times and came away with 21 points. Two aces for Connors, four for Agassi. They each double faulted once.

Agassi, who burst onto the scene this year by winning a Grand Prix-leading six tournaments this year, talked afterwards about Connors, who played his first US Open before

the Las Vegas 18-year-old was even born.

"The fact that he's still out there says a lot about his character," Agassi said. "It is great for the game."

Jimmy has determination and his desire to stay out there and fight is something that I always respected, something that I always wanted to have.

Agassi, who puts everything he has into his piercing ground strokes, admits to similarities in their games.

"If we are down match point, it isn't going to stop us from hitting the shots. We both have the frame of mind. We both play aggressive tennis. Either you win hitting the ball or lose hitting the ball."

Aimed

Connors was asked about Agassi and his on-court antics aimed at entertaining the crowd. "I think anybody that is young, that has something to give besides just good tennis is good for the game," he said.

Connors made it clear there was also good tennis left in one of the game's elder statesmen. "I did some things better now than I did 10 years ago, some things not as well," he said.

And comparisons with Agassi?

"I am an original, leave me alone," he joked.

SOCCER

Soviet star wants Seville to raise pay

MOSCOW, Sept. 3, (Reuter): National goalkeeper Rinat Dasayev, the latest Soviet soccer star to be wooed by a club in the West, said today he wants Spain's Seville to pay \$4 million for his services, four times what they offered.

Dasayev, 31, said in an interview with the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya that he told the manager of the First Division club during talks here that Seville's offer of \$1 million for a four-year contract was too low.

"That rather changed the situation," said Dasayev, who plays for Soviet champions Spartak Moscow. "The manager has flown back to Spain to hold talks with the club's management."

Spanish press reports had earlier suggested that the deal was already virtually sealed and Dasayev would be playing there for the start of the season.

West German First Division club Hamburg, who said in June they were talking to Dasayev, also offered one million, but talks had stalled, he said.

Interested

Several other Western European clubs are also rumoured to be interested in the Spartak player, a key member of the Soviet Union side who lost to the Netherlands in the final of the European Championships last June.

If Dasayev goes to Seville, he will be the fourth Soviet player to sign a contract with a foreign club in the past year.

But Dasayev said in the interview that he was unhappy with rules — currently under review — which oblige these players to hand over their earnings to the Soviet government, which then pays them back a salary.

"Irrespective of how much money a footballer brings to the state, everyone playing abroad gets the same salary," Dasayev told the newspaper. "You can hardly call that fair."

It is true that the state sports committee is working on a new instruction, but discussions have already been going on for months and no-one knows how long they will continue.

Rain dampens Essex' title hopes

LONDON, Sept. 3, (Reuter): Essex were beaten by the weather in their attempt to close the gap on English Cricket Championship leaders Kent and Worcestershire.

They had to settle for six bonus points as the rain-hit game with Surrey ended in a draw yesterday and remained third in the table, six points behind Worcestershire and 21 adrift of Kent. Two games remain.

England captain Graham Gooch scored 123 out of an Essex total of 257 for six declared in reply to Surrey's first innings 362. He struck 16 fours in his 202-minute stay.

Warwickshire's Gladstone Small and Norman Gifford went within five runs of achieving a record last wicket winning partnership in a tense finish against Glamorgan.

A Thameside rainstorm at Old Trafford for time, added 82 but Small fell for 69 and Glamorgan scrambled their first championship win of the season by four runs. It was a sad finish for the fast bowler who earlier produced career-best match figures of 12 for 121.

The best 10th wicket winning stand of 77 was set in 1935-36. Kevin Curran produced a fine all-round performance to help Gloucestershire overcome Hampshire by five wickets.

He took three for nought in eight balls, finishing with six for 58 then struck 28 not out as Gloucestershire reached their 126 target.

Results

At Southampton: Gloucestershire beat Hampshire by five wickets. Hampshire 113 in 55.1 overs and 150 (K. Curran six for 58). Gloucestershire 138 in 53 overs and 128 for five (P. Bakker three for 15). Gloucestershire 20 points, Hampshire 10.

At Old Trafford: Match aban-

doned — rain. Yorkshire 224 in 86 overs and 171 for eight (J. Fitton six for 59). Lancashire 218 in 93.4 overs. Lancashire and Yorkshire six points.

At Edgbaston: Glamorgan beat Warwickshire by four runs. Glamorgan 272 in 83.5 overs and 136 (G. Small six for 42). Warwickshire 215 in 93 overs and 189 (G. Small 69 G. Thomas six for 70, J. Derrick four for 47). Glamorgan 23 points, Warwickshire six.

At Hove: Match drawn. Middlesex scored 160 overs and eight for one declared, Sussex 320 in 126.3 overs (C. Wells 86 not out, A. Green 52). Middlesex five points, Sussex three.

At Leicester: Match drawn. Leicestershire 332 for nine declared in 110.4 overs, Nottinghamshire 136 in 46.4 overs (G. Evans five for 49). Leicestershire 25 points, Nottinghamshire 10.

At Taunton: Match drawn. Somerset 113 in 55.1 overs and 150 (K. Curran six for 58). Gloucestershire 138 in 53 overs and 128 for five (P. Bakker three for 15). Gloucestershire 20 points, Somerset 10.

Johnson 74, C. Broad 52). Leicestershire eight points, Nottinghamshire three.

At the Oval: Surrey 362 (Alec Stewart 133, Darren Bicknell 50, David Ward 50, Ian Pont five for 103). Essex 257 for six declared (Graham Gooch 123).

English County Championship cricket table after yesterday's matches (batting bonus points, bowling bonus points, total points): Kent 20 9 5 50 64 258 Essex 20 5 9 48 67 245 Warwickshire 21 6 8 74 72 214 Surrey 20 6 4 10 53 64 213 Middlesex 21 7 11 46 32 210 Leicestershire 21 6 13 51 61 210 Lancashire 21 6 7 37 66 207 Nottinghamshire 20 7 7 62 77 202 Somerset 20 5 10 42 59 189 Northants 20 5 6 48 63 185 Gloucestershire 20 5 9 46 54 180 Derbyshire 20 4 2 14 46 52 162 Yorkshire 20 3 6 11 40 60 148 Sussex 20 3 3 32 62 142 Hampshire 20 3 8 12 31 62 135 Glamorgan 20 1 6 13 37 47 100

Leonard and Lalonde promote November fight

LAS VEGAS, Sept. 3, (AP): Two months before they enter the ring, Sugar Ray Leonard and Donny Lalonde kicked off a tour yesterday to promote a fight that participants say will bring in at least \$20 million.

Both fighters were courteous and polite almost to a fault at a Caesars Palace news conference that marked the beginning of an eight-city tour to promote the Nov 7 bout.

The fighters had good reason to be in top spirits, with the news that the fight is already guaranteed to gross \$20 million and could go higher. With no promoter involved, Leonard will take an estimated 70 to 75 per cent of the total gross, with

Lalonde, a Canadian, getting the rest.

"With what is in the pot now, we're already guaranteed \$5.5 million and it's going to go higher," said Dave Wolf, Lalonde's manager. "Now we're moving into numbers I can't anticipate."

Lalonde will be defending the World Boxing Council light heavyweight title and the WBC's new 168-pound title will also be on the line when the fighters meet in an outdoor stadium in the scheduled 12-round fight.

Caesars' Palace reportedly spent \$7.5 million to host the fight, and has scaled tickets from \$200 to \$1,000 for a total gate of \$8.6 million in the 15,300-seat stadium.

Cubans keep pace with Americans

MILAN, Italy, Sept. 3, (AP): Ty Griffin's three-run homer highlighted a five-run second inning for the United States, which went on to defeat the Netherlands 9-0 last night in the World Baseball Championships.

Cuba kept pace with the United States with 9-0 records in the 12-team tournament by beating Nicaragua 11-1. In other games Puerto Rico defeated Spain 7-1, Japan beat the Netherlands Antilles 11-0, Taiwan edged South Korea 6-4 and Canada beat Italy 10-4.

Griffin's home run paced a 12-

hit US attack. Starter Charles Nagy got the win while striking out eight and allowing just 3 hits in five innings. Peter Callenbach was the loser for the Netherlands, which fell to 2-8.

Buried

Cuba got a solo run from Lourdes Gurriel in the seventh and a two-run shot from Omar Linares in the same inning to highlight a 15-run attack that buried Nicaragua, which dropped to 4-5.

Canada raised its record to 6-3 with a 15-hit attack that included a two-run homer by Greg

O'Halloran, and solo home runs by Randy Curran, Greg Roth and Marc Griffin. Rheel Cormier got the win, striking out nine and scattering six hits over eight innings of work. Roberto Mari was the loser for Italy, which fell to 4-6.

Kou-Lee Chien-Fu struck out seven and allowed just one hit in six innings of relief and Hong I-Chung drove in the winning run in the fifth with a single as Taiwan improved its record to 6-3. Park Dong-Hee was the loser for South Korea, which dropped to 3-6.

Title bout

WEST PATERSON, New Jersey, Sept. 3, (AP): Tomas Molinar of Colombia will defend the World Boxing Association welterweight title against Mark Brendal at a site and date to be determined, promoter Dan Duva announced yesterday.

Molinar won the title on a controversial knockout victory over Marlon Starling. A tape replay showed Molinar hit Starling after the bell ending the sixth round. The New Jersey Athletic Control Board announced the result was void, but the WBA allowed it to stand.

Nafez and Sabay triumph at Masters tourney



All the men's winners with Adnan Khalil (extreme left) and Manny.



The top four women bowlers with their prizes.

NAFEZ Fauzi Al Aqras, a Palestinian, and Eva Sabay, a Filipina, took the men's and women's titles respectively at the 2nd Masters Bowling Tournament held over the weekend at the 300 Club Silver Tower.

Nafez grossed 1,785 pinfalls in nine games to finish ahead of five other bowlers who managed to reach the final round. Peter Nierva, the favourite finished in second place.

Tied

Earlier on Nierva was stretched to the limit by the defending champion Bob Peek of the United States. Nierva and Peek finished tied with a score of 1,757 pinfalls each. An extra game was held to decide the winner and after a very close fight Nierva won.

In the game between Nierva and Nafez, the latter found things tough and after a close game, emerged winner by 142-141.

Nierva not only took the 1st



Nafez (right) receives his prize.



Sabay collects her trophy.

runner-up spot but also the High Series with a score of 654. He broke the record set last year by Peek of 633.

Rico Pino took the 2nd runner-up spot while Peek was 3rd runner-up. Arthur Reyes was the 4th runner-up and following him was Tony Lacson.

In the women's division, Sabay had things her own way until the last game against Arlene Boncillo who finished the tournament as 1st runner-up. Boncillo seemed to be doing well throughout the match until three strikes turned the match 190-186 in Sabay's favour.

Boncillo's performance earned her the High Game and the High Series with scores of 203 and 338 respectively. Sabay rolled a total of 1,014 pinfalls on her way to the title.

Cecile Contreras was the 2nd runner-up while Bhe Guimao finished the event as 3rd runner-up.

Adnan Khalil, general manager of Far East Restaurant — the sponsors, gave away the prizes. The tournament was organised by the Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK) under the supervision of its president Manny Inserto.



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